

A SIGN OF AFFECTION



suu Morishita

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2

suu Morishita



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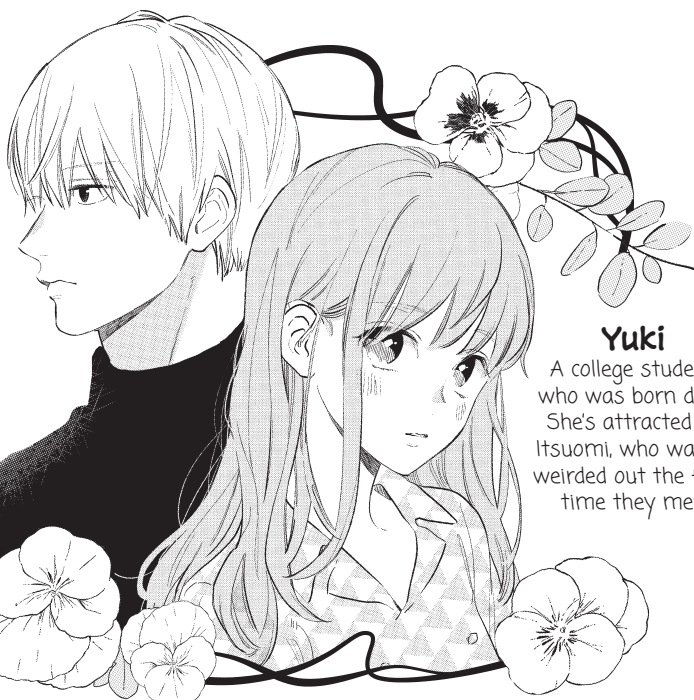
160



CHARACTERS

Itsuomi

An upperclassman of Yuki's at her college. He's in the International Club, works part time at a café, and enjoys backpacking abroad.



Yuki

A college student who was born deaf. She's attracted to Itsuomi, who wasn't weirded out the first time they met.



Rin-chan

A friend of Yuki's and a member of the same club as Itsuomi. She's crushing on Kyouya.



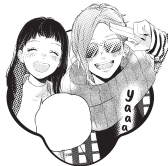
Oushi

A childhood friend of Yuki's. He knows sign language and somehow always ends up giving her a hard time.



Kyouya

Itsuomi's cousin, and the owner of the bar where Itsuomi works part time.



Emma & Shin

Classmates of Itsuomi from high school.

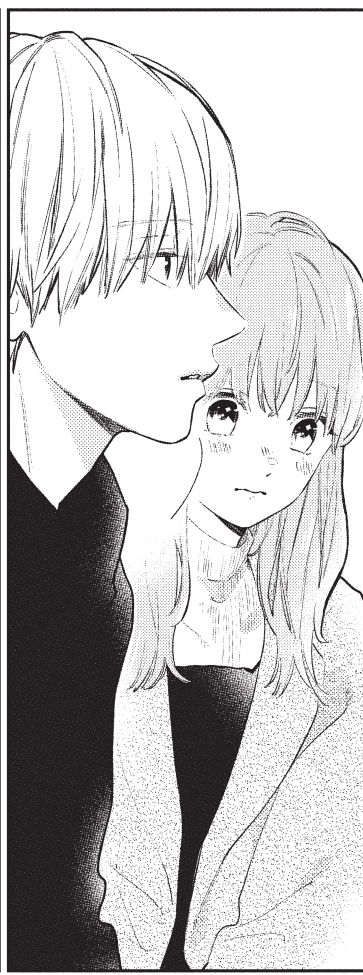
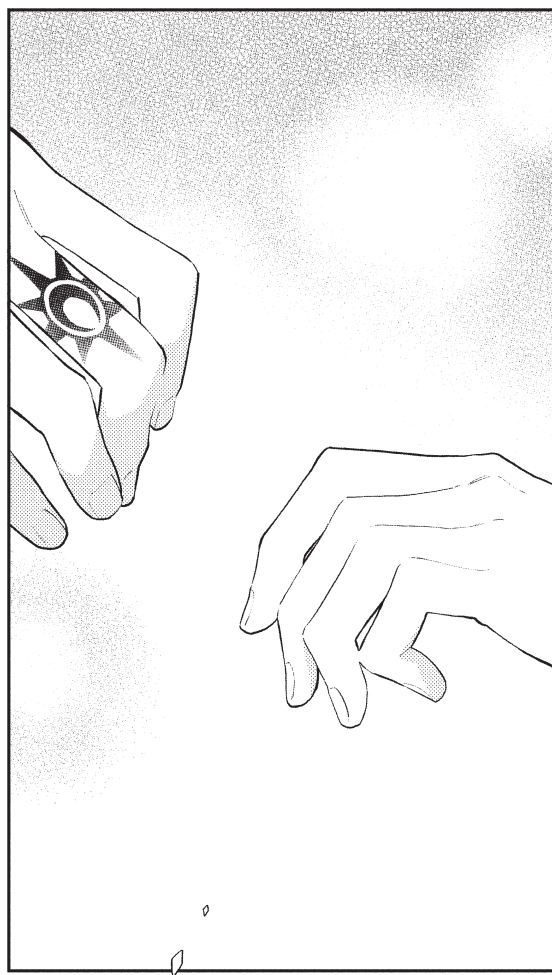
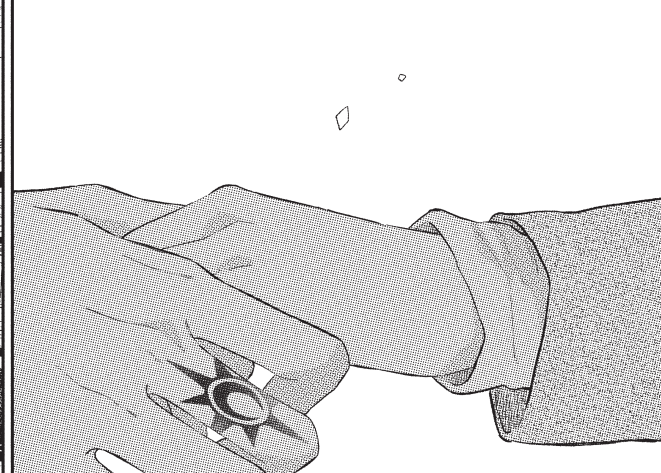
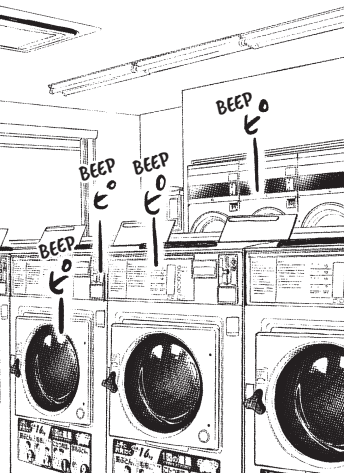
STORY

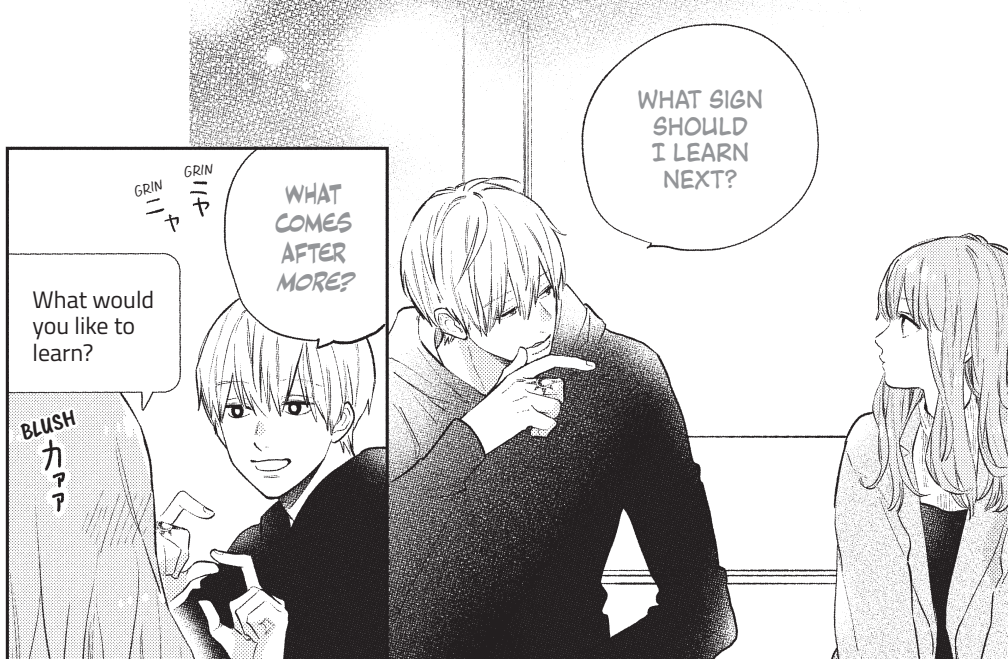
Yuki is a college student who was born deaf. One day, a foreign tourist asks her for directions on the train. Not knowing any English, she panics, until an upperclassman from her school, Itsuomi, comes to her rescue. Itsuomi doesn't treat her like a delicate flower so, every time they meet, Yuki is more and more enchanted by him, eventually realizing that she's in love with him. She decides to go after him seriously. He invites her to hang out at the laundromat, and the two get some alone time, during which the distance between them seems to close...

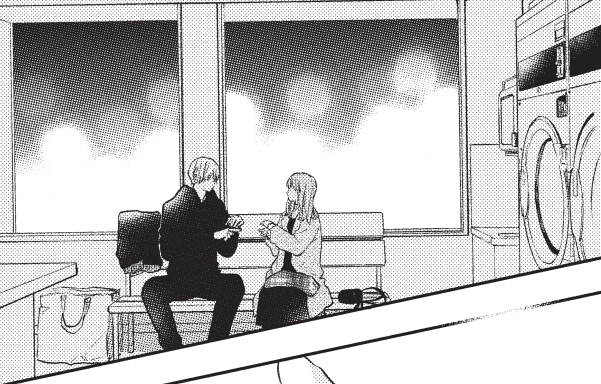


Sign.5

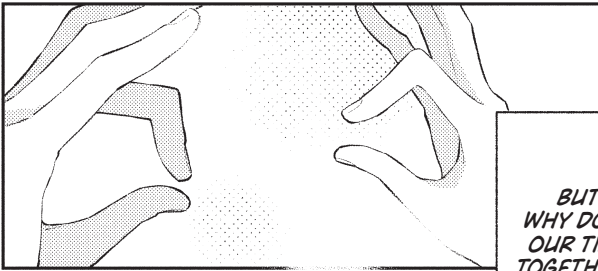
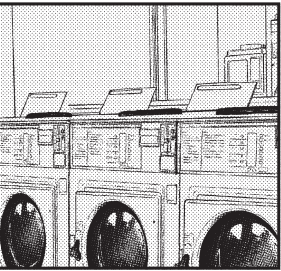
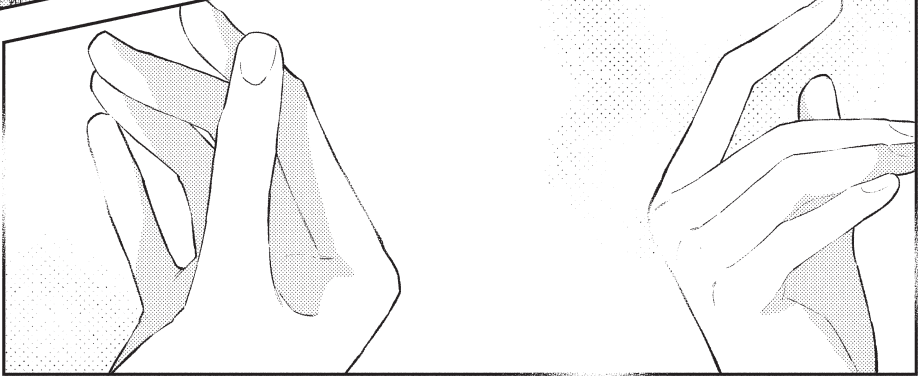
SOMEONE IS THINKING
OF SOMEONE



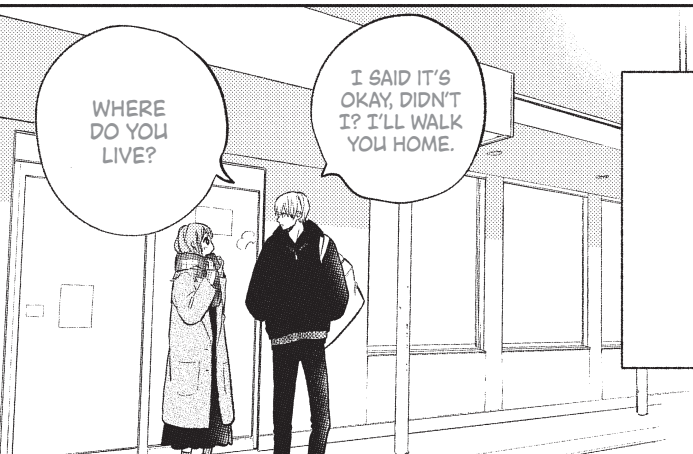




*I GUESS...
WE GET TO
HANG OUT
LONGER.*



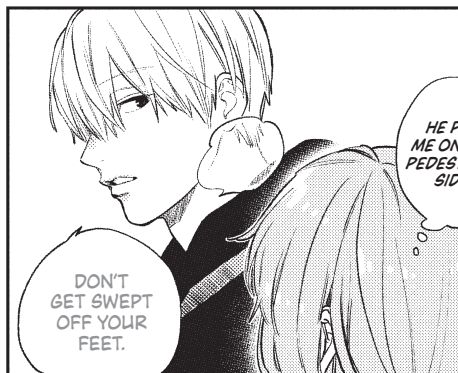
*BUT
WHY DOES
OUR TIME
TOGETHER...*



WHERE
DO YOU
LIVE?

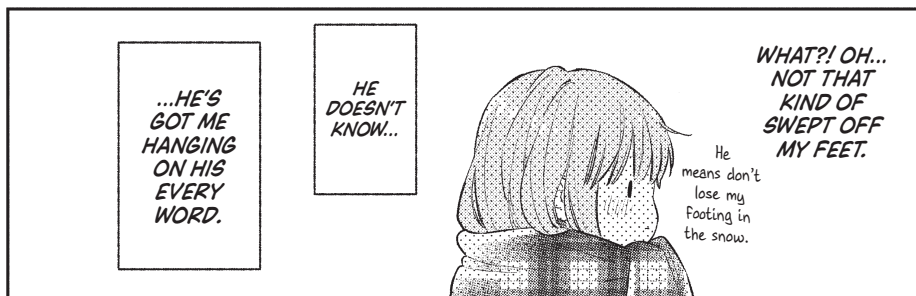
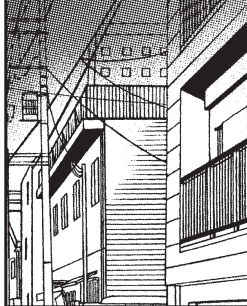
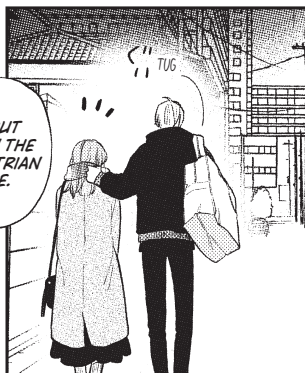
I SAID IT'S
OKAY, DIDN'T
I? I'LL WALK
YOU HOME.

*...HAVE
TO BE SO
SHORT?*



DON'T
GET SWEEP
OFF YOUR
FEET.

HE PUT
ME ON THE
PEDESTRIAN
SIDE.



...HE'S
GOT ME
HANGING
ON HIS
EVERY
WORD.

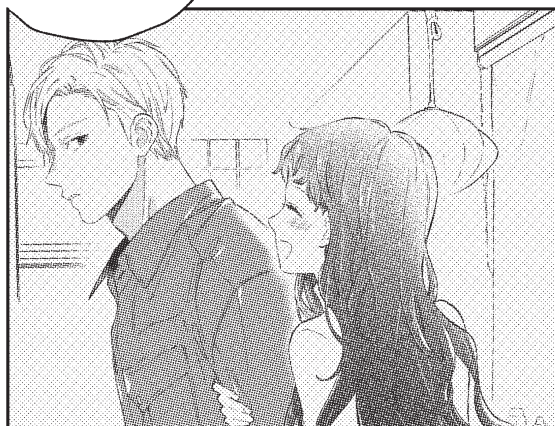
HE
DOESN'T
KNOW...

WHAT?! OH...
NOT THAT
KIND OF
SWEEP OFF
MY FEET.

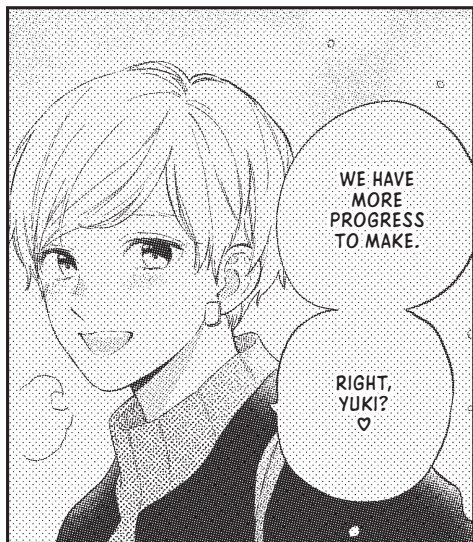
He
means don't
lose my
footing in
the snow.



I WONDER
IF EVERYBODY
ITSUOMI-SAN
MEETS FALLS
FOR HIM.



...HE
MAKES
ME FEEL...
SAFE.



WE HAVE
MORE
PROGRESS
TO MAKE.

RIGHT,
YUKI?
♡



I
SHOULDN'T
GET ALL
WEIRD
ABOUT IT.

No!

THE
OWNER
OF THE
CAFÉ SAID
THEY WERE
"FRIENDS."

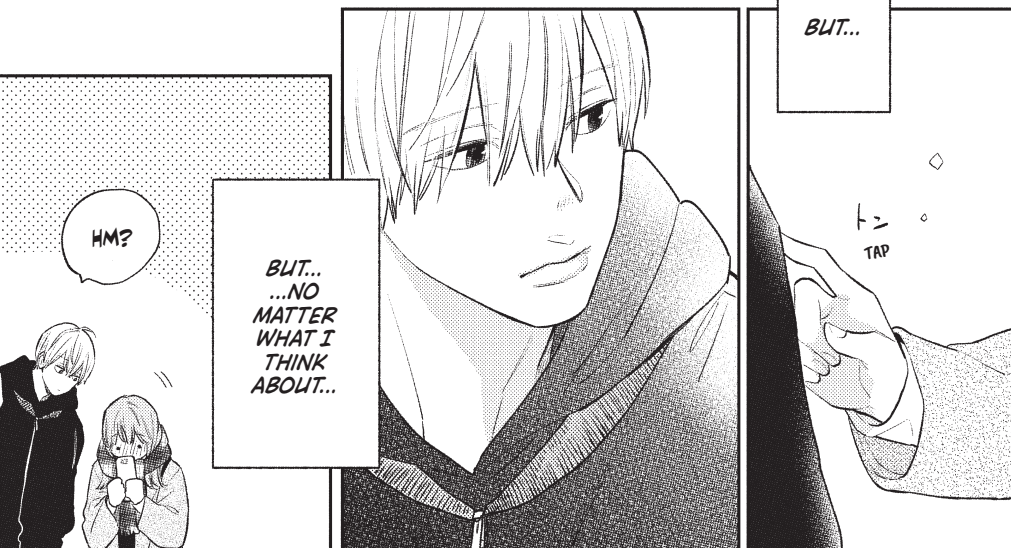
THINK OF
SOMETHING
POSITIVE.

SHAKE
??
IL
SHAKE
)



...

う
た
PAUSE



BUT...

ト
TAP

BUT...
...NO
MATTER
WHAT I
THINK
ABOUT...

HM?



*...IT
ALWAYS
LEADS
BACK TO
THAT.*

Is that girl who came to
the cafe the other day
your girlfriend?



WHO?

She and her friend were
really drunk, and the
guy she came with was
wearing sunglasses.

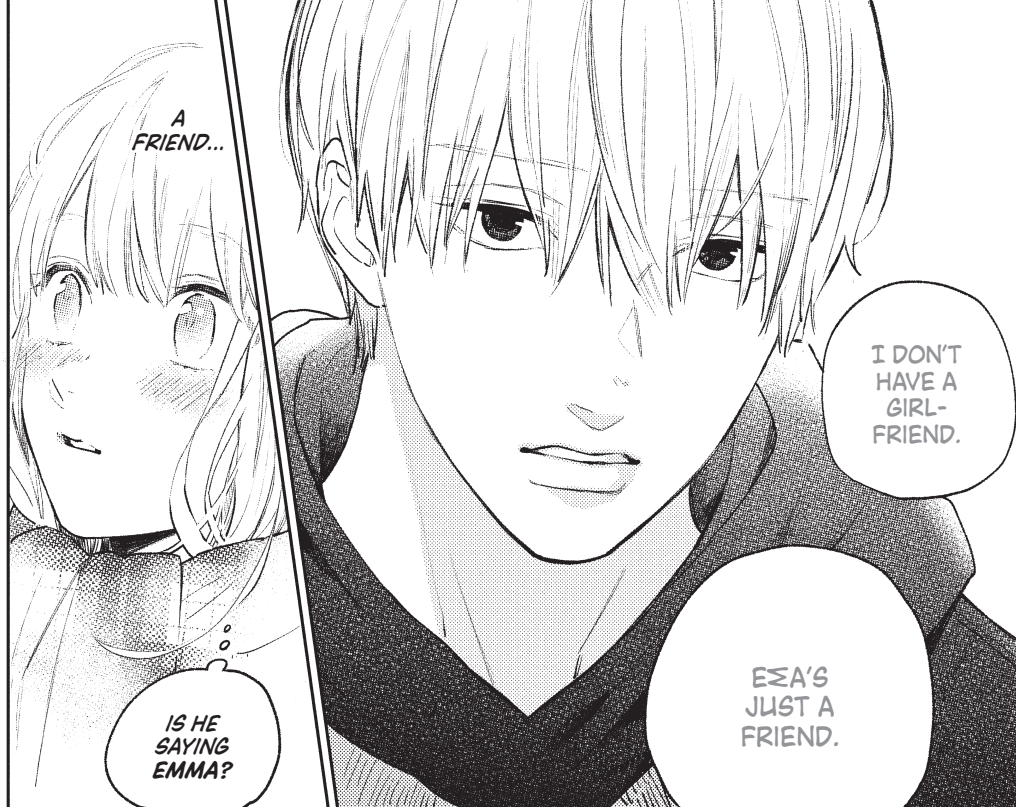
OH, THEM.



IT'S
SO HARD
HAVING TO
MEET HIS
EYES...

...AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS.



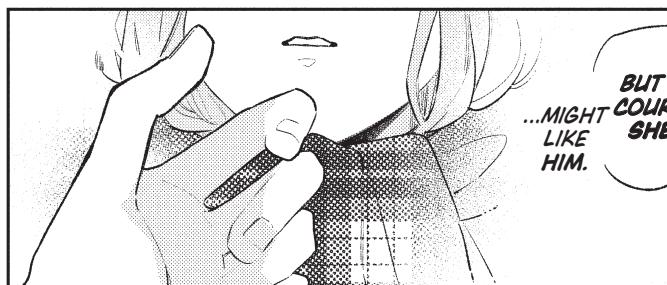


A
FRIEND...

I DON'T
HAVE A
GIRL-
FRIEND.

IS HE
SAYING
EMMA?

ESSA'S
JUST A
FRIEND.



BUT OF
COURSE,
SHE...
...MIGHT
LIKE
HIM.



WHEN HE
SAYS IT,
IT DOES
MAKE
ME FEEL
BETTER...

...THAN
WHEN
THE CAFÉ
OWNER
TOLD ME.



HUH?

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
YUKI?



THE ONE WHO
WAS SIGNING
WITH YOU, ALL
FRIENDLY.

THAT
GUY ON
CAMPUS.



Yuki

No no, we've been friends
since we were little.

Yuki

We never went to the same
school before. We just
chose the same college.

SMILE
=D

SO THAT
MEANS...

...ITSUOMI-
SAN WAS
WATCHING
ME THAT
TIME?



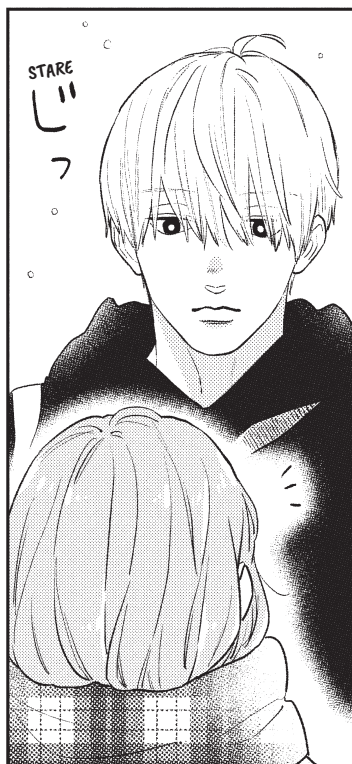
...HUH.

Oushi-kun's older sister was studying sign language, and he just started picking it up naturally.



The first word he signed to me was "idiot," around second grade.

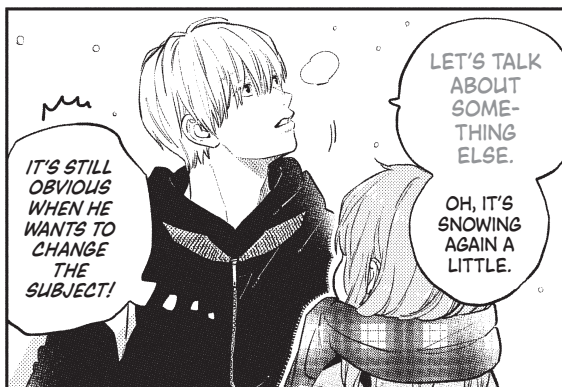
WHEN WAS THAT?



STARE
し
っ
っ

We usually don't really hang out.

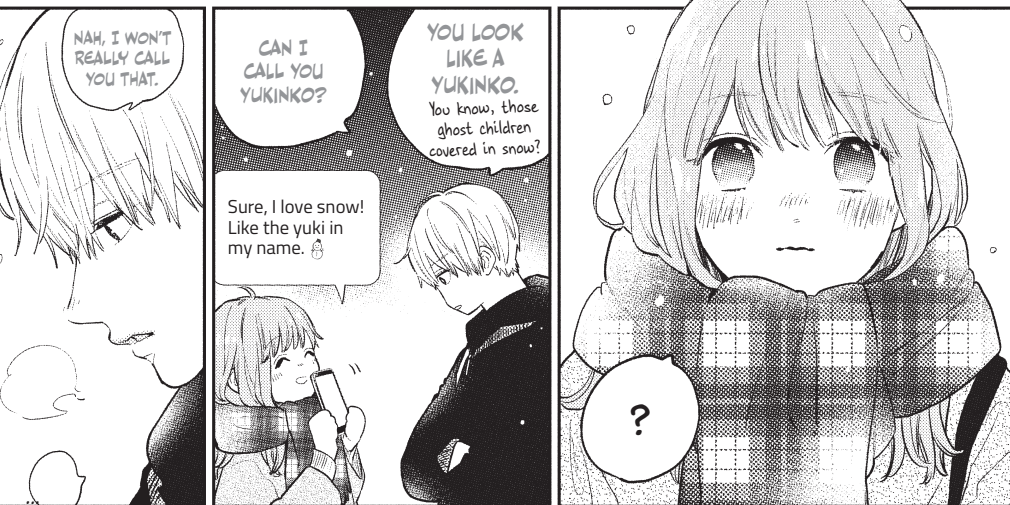
THOUGH I'VE BEEN SEEING HIM MORE OFTEN RECENTLY.

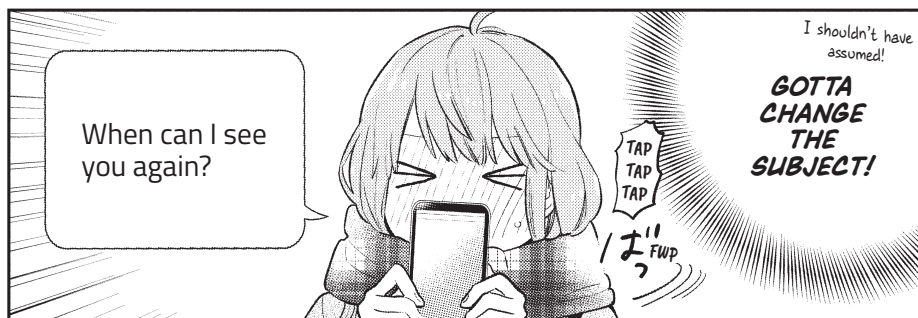
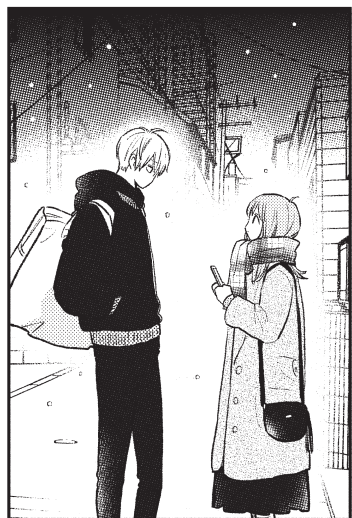


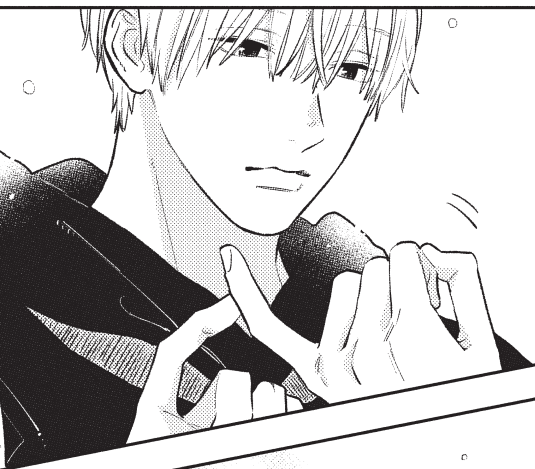
IT'S STILL OBVIOUS WHEN HE WANTS TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

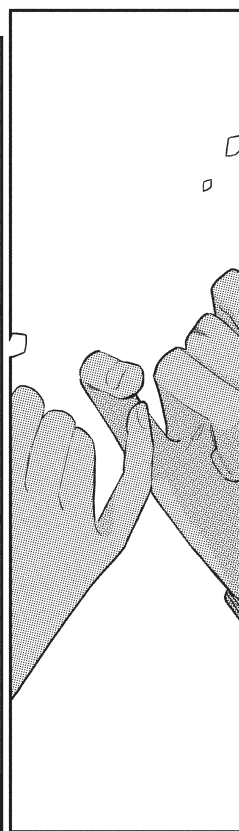
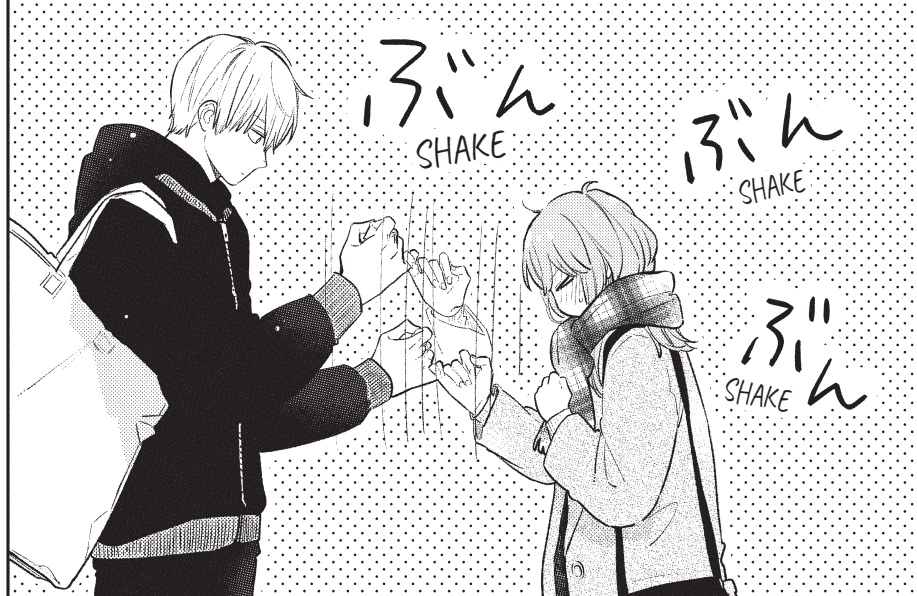
OH, IT'S SNOWING AGAIN A LITTLE.













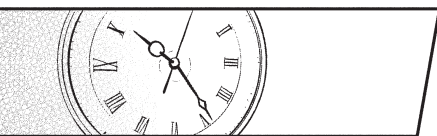
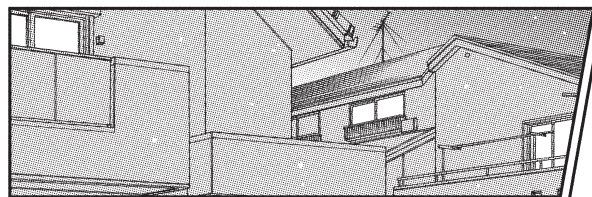
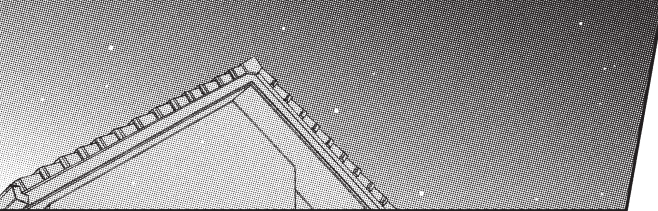
*TOSSED
AROUND...*

*...LIKE MY
AWESTRUCK
HEART.*

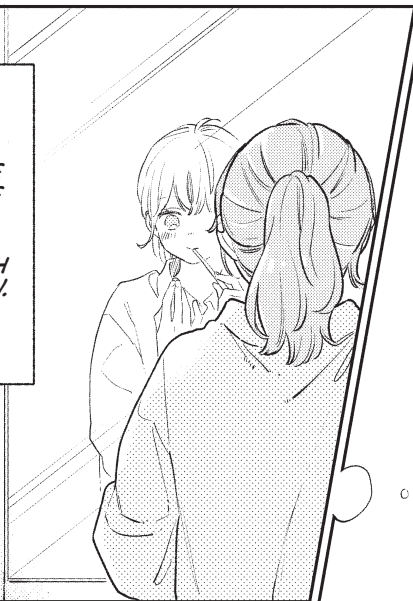
*SCATTERING TO
AND FRO...*

*...WHEREVER THE
WIND TAKES THEM.*

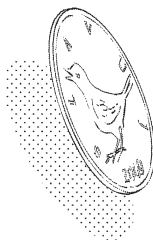
*IT'S LIKE THEY
DON'T KNOW
WHEN TO GIVE UP.*



IT WAS THE
FIRST TIME
I'D EVER
CUT IT SO
CLOSE WITH
MY CURFEW.



A COIN
FROM A
FAR-OFF
LAND...

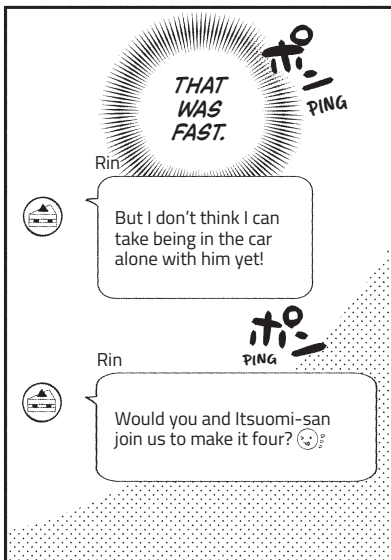
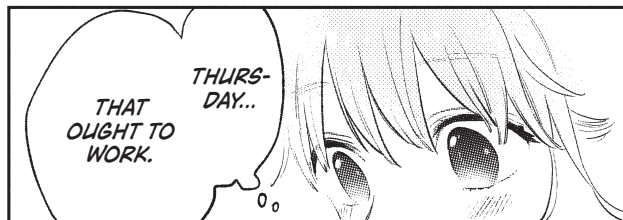
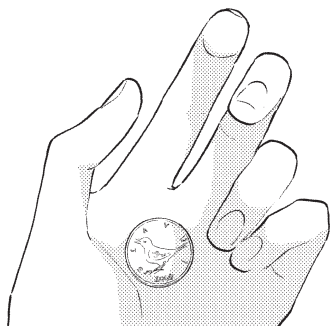


...I DON'T
WANT
TO GO
HOME.

...I
COULD GO
ANYWHERE.

...JUST
HOLDING IT
MAKES ME
FEEL LIKE...

SINCE
ITSUOMI-SAN
GAVE IT TO
ME...

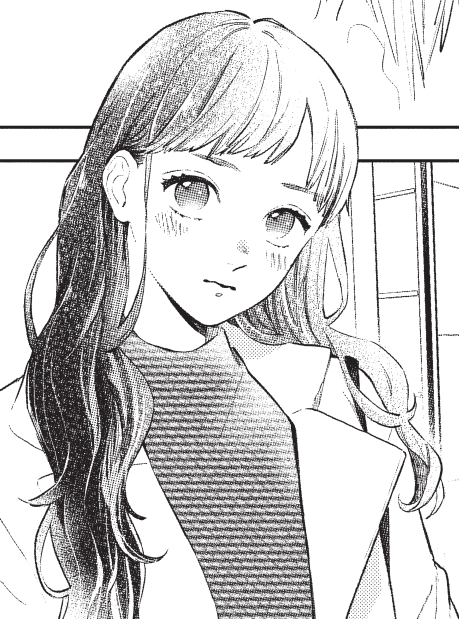
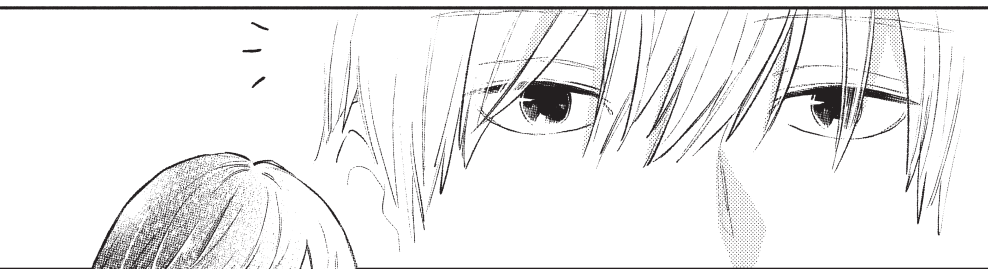




I DO FEEL
LIKE I COULD
GO ANY-
WHERE...

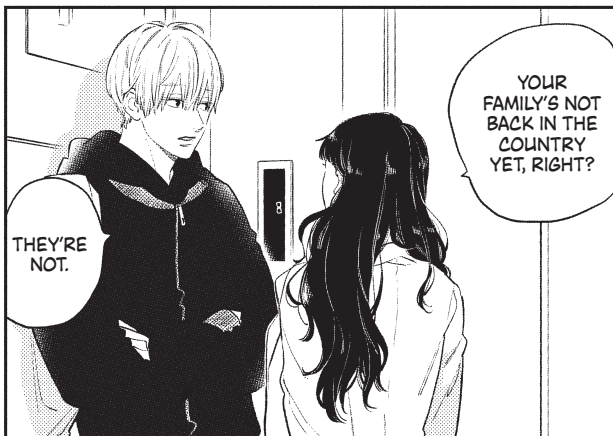
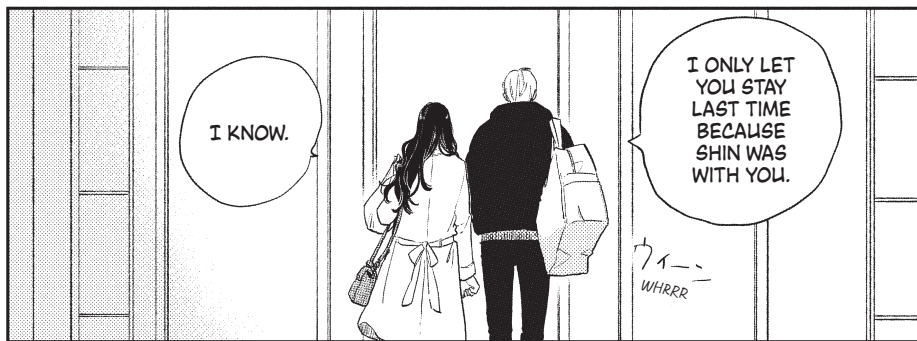
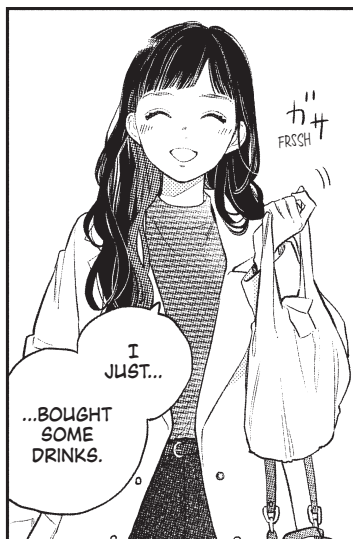
...I REALLY
WANT
TO GO
RIGHT
NOW.

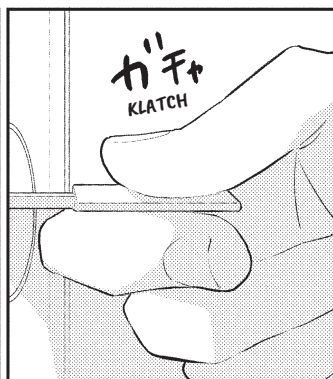
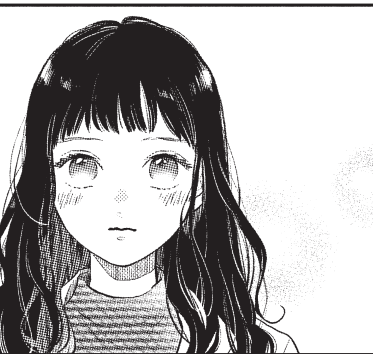
...BUT
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
PLACE...

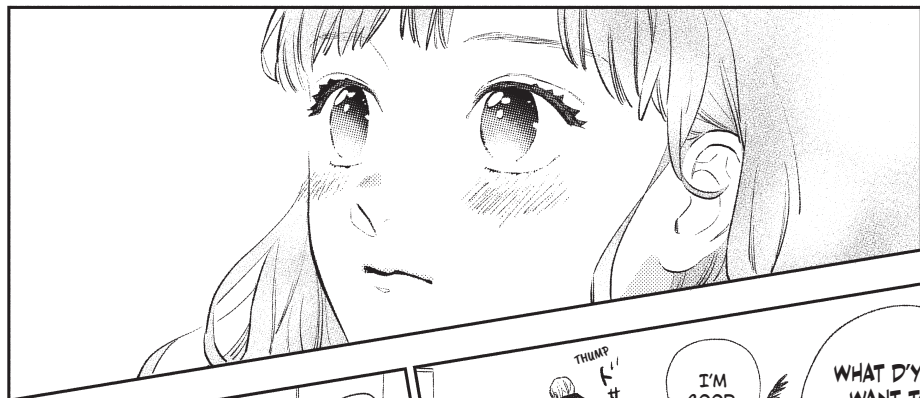
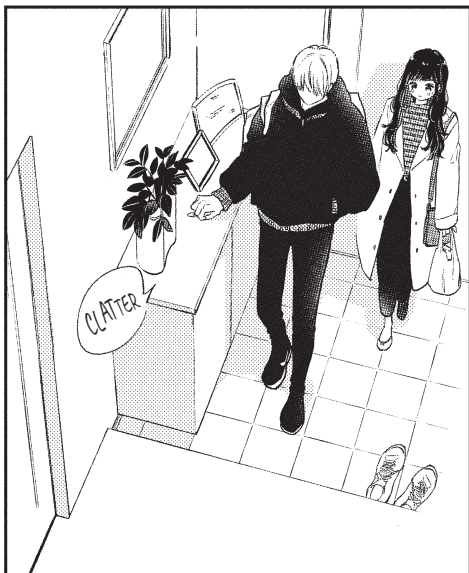


YO.

WHEN'D
YOU SHOW
UP?









ARE YOU
THAT UPSET
THAT I
CAME?

...IT'S LATE,
AND IT'S
SNOWING
OUT. YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO OUT
AGAIN.

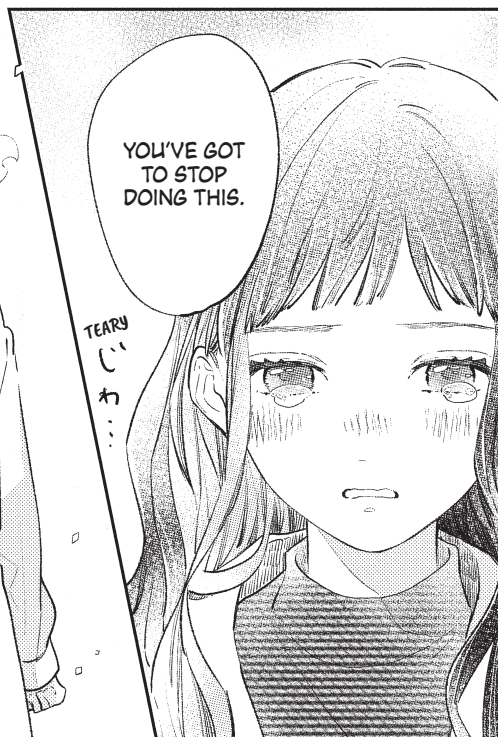


ITSU-
KUN.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

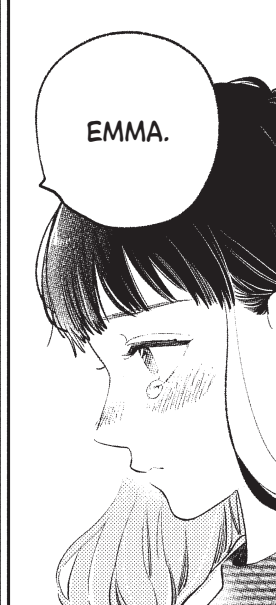


I ONLY
DID IT
BECAUSE
IT'S YOU,
ITSU-KUN!

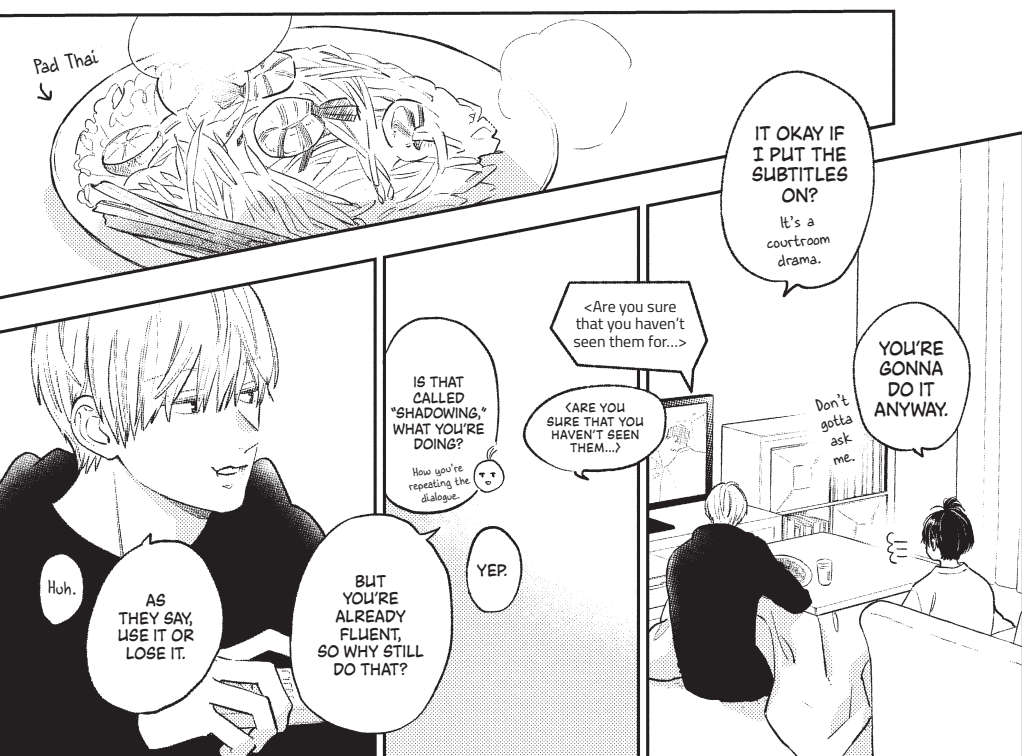


YOU'VE GOT
TO STOP
DOING THIS.

TEARY
い
ち...



★IT'S ABOUT A 20-MINUTE WALK TO THE OWNER'S HOME.





<How many
gunshots did
you hear? Two?
Three?>



...TAKE THAT
KIND OF
SLOW-AND-
STEADY
EFFORT.

I GUESS
A LOT OF
THINGS...



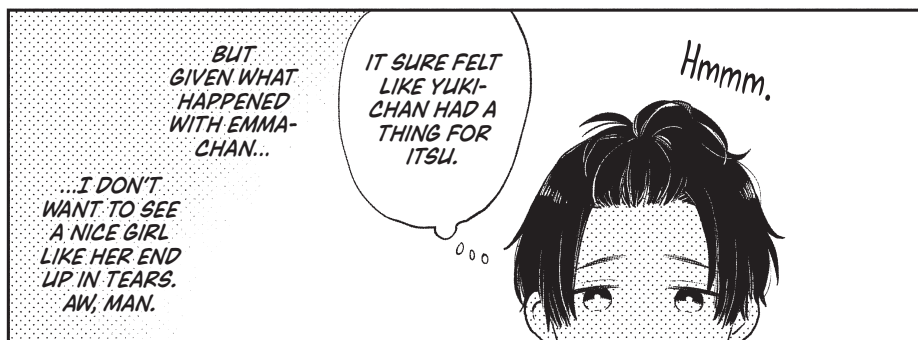
DID
YUKI-CHAN
TEACH
YOU?

IT MEANS
<MORE.>

...
HERE'S
WHAT I
DON'T
GET...



IS
THAT SIGN
LANGUAGE?





WHAT'S *THAT* MEAN? NOTHING'S GOING ON WITH RIN-CHAN! U

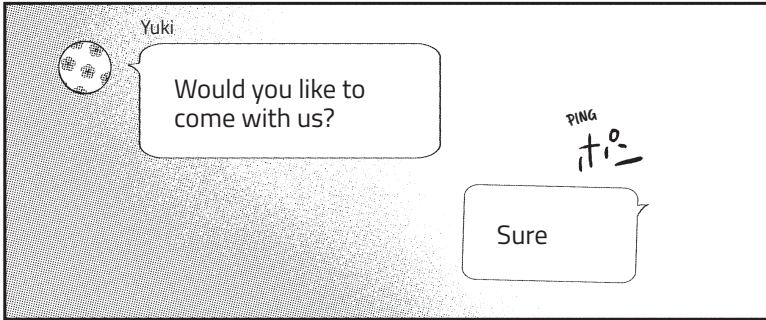
SO. YOU AND RIN, HUH?



YOU COMING WITH? IT'S A COSTCO RUN.

OH, YEAH.

HUH? YOU'VE GOT PLANS WITH RIN?

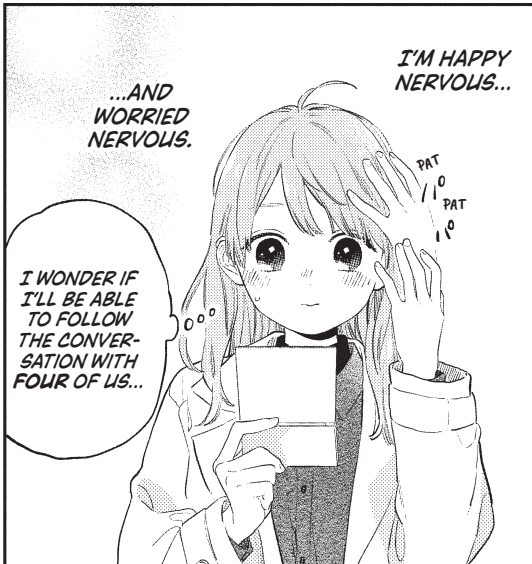
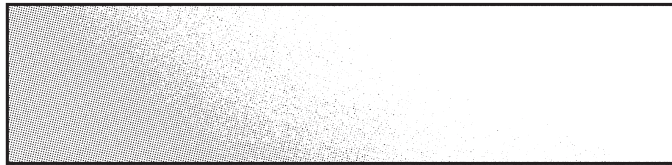


Yuki

Would you like to come with us?

PING
ハニ

Sure

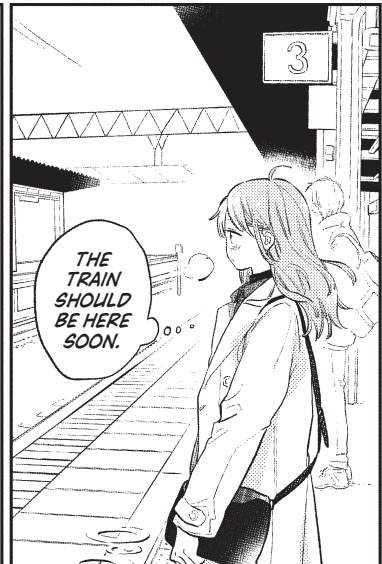


...AND WORRIED NERVOUS.

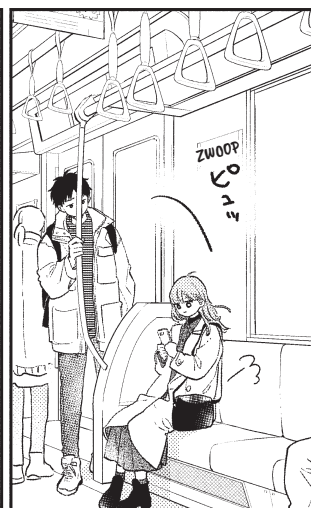
I'M HAPPY NERVOUS...

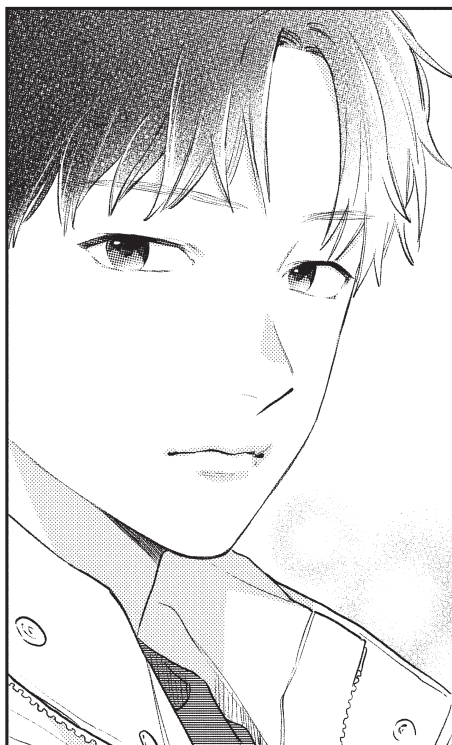
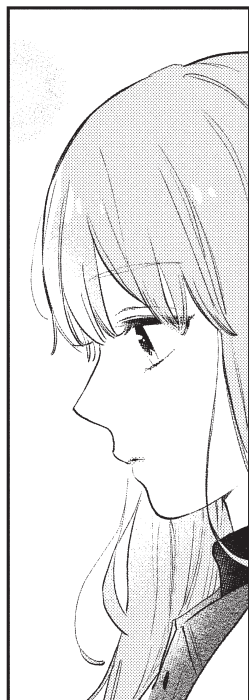
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION WITH FOUR OF US...

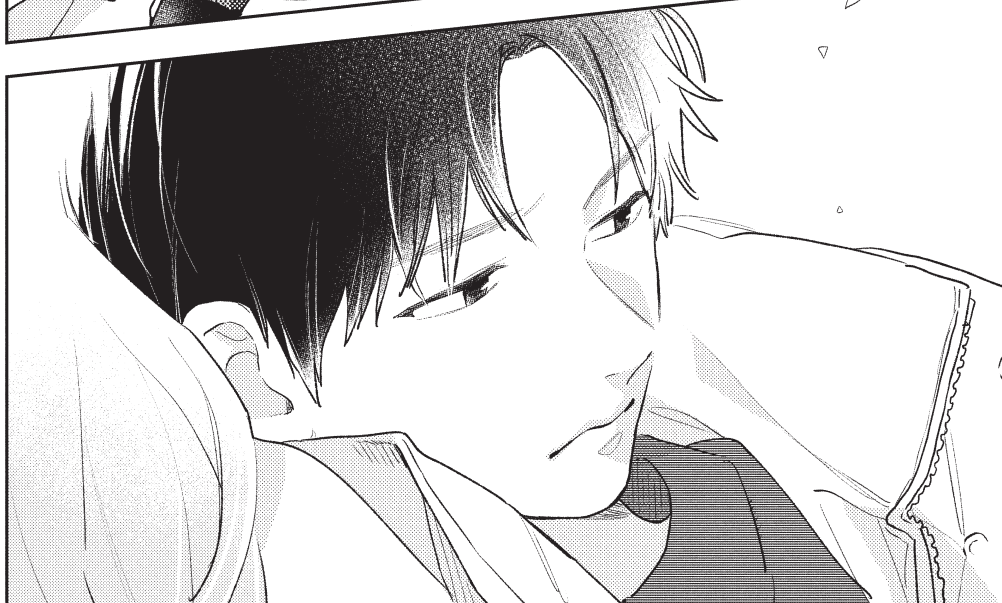
PAT
PAT
PAT



THE TRAIN SHOULD BE HERE SOON.









Itsuomi



I'm just outside the
turnstile.



HE
CAME
TO MEET
ME...?



WHY'S
IT SO
CROWDED
TODAY?

WHOA.

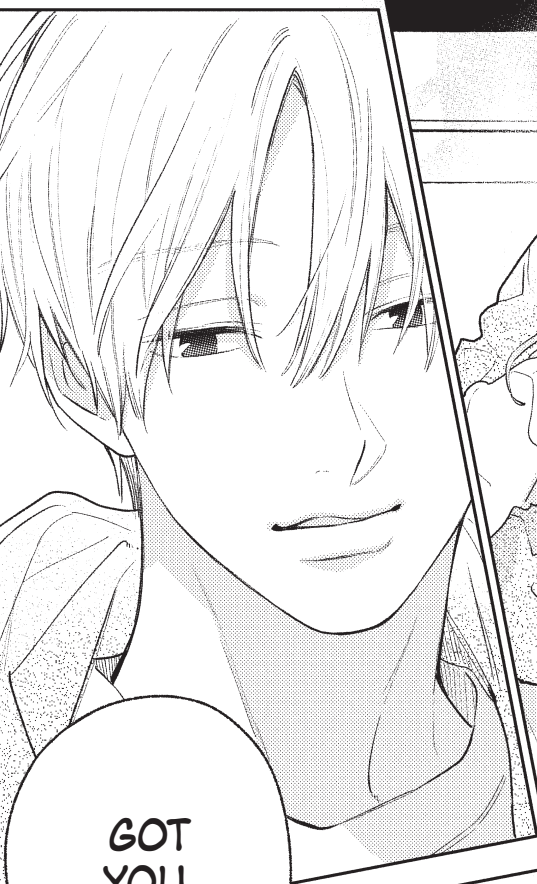
YUKI!

WHERE'S
ITSUOMI-
SAN...?

TRUDGE
ドド
TRUDGE

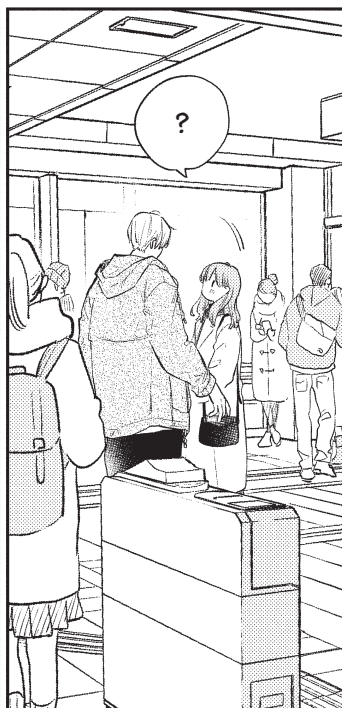
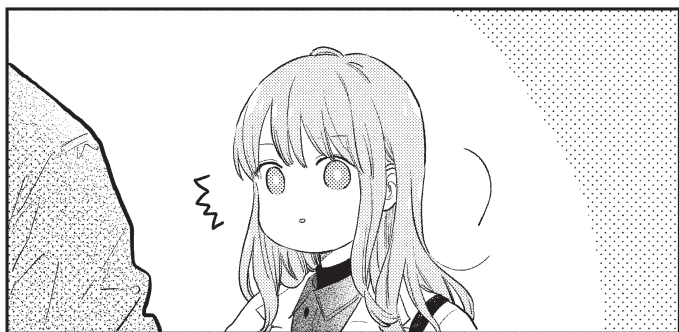
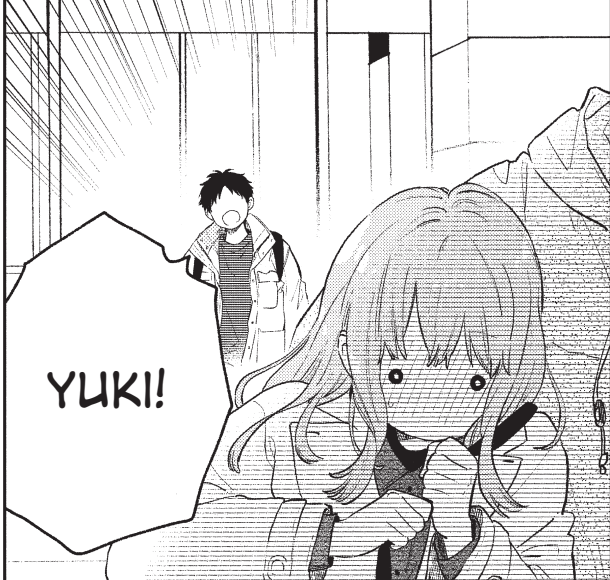
?!

ドド
TRUDGE
ドド
TRUDGE



GOT
YOU.





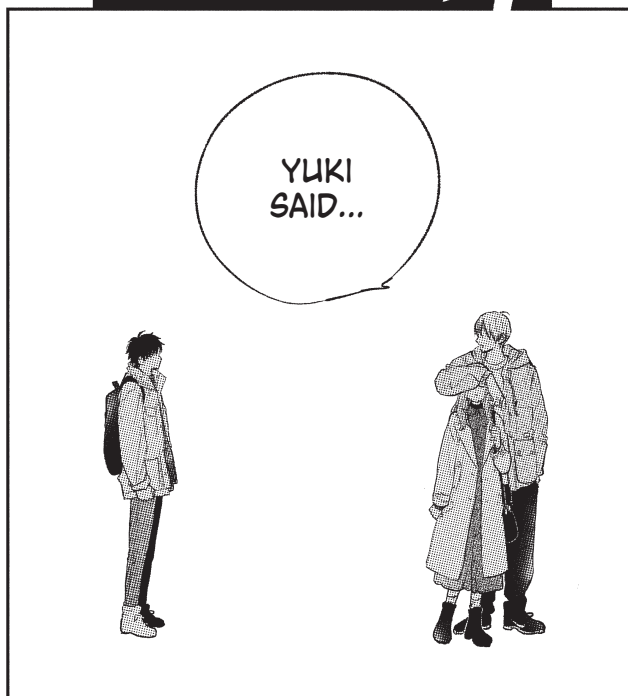




HEY!

SHE CAN'T
HEAR, YOU
KNOW.

SO YOU
SHOULDN'T
GRAB HER
FROM
BEHIND.



YUKI
SAID...



ARE THEY...?

...TALKING TO
EACH OTHER?

I CAN'T
SEE.



...
WHAT?

...IT'S
OKAY...

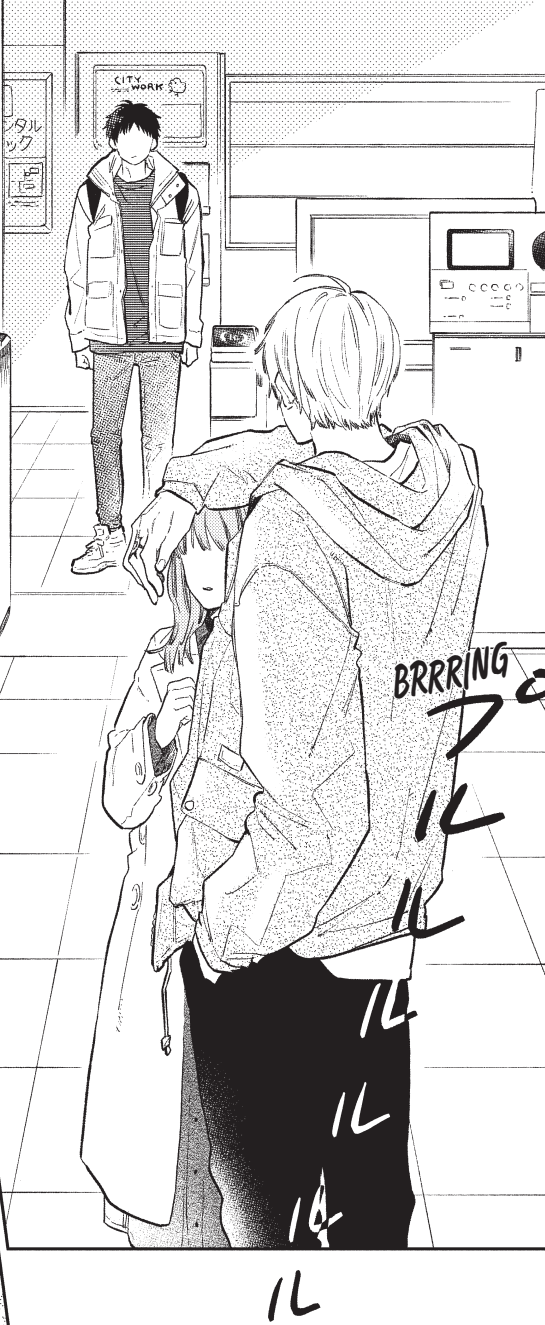
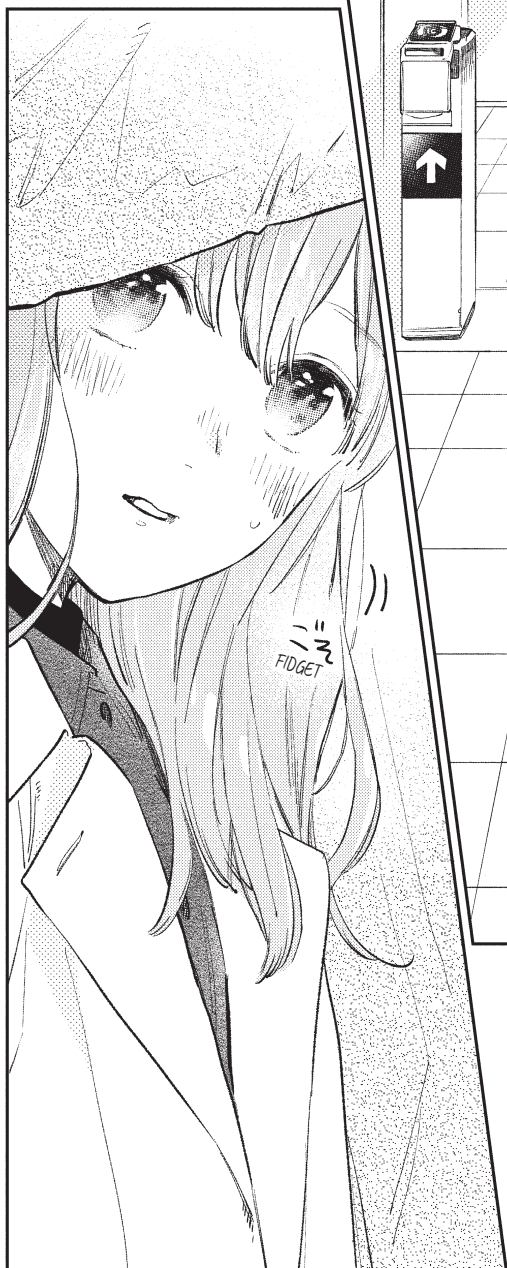
...IF IT'S
ME.

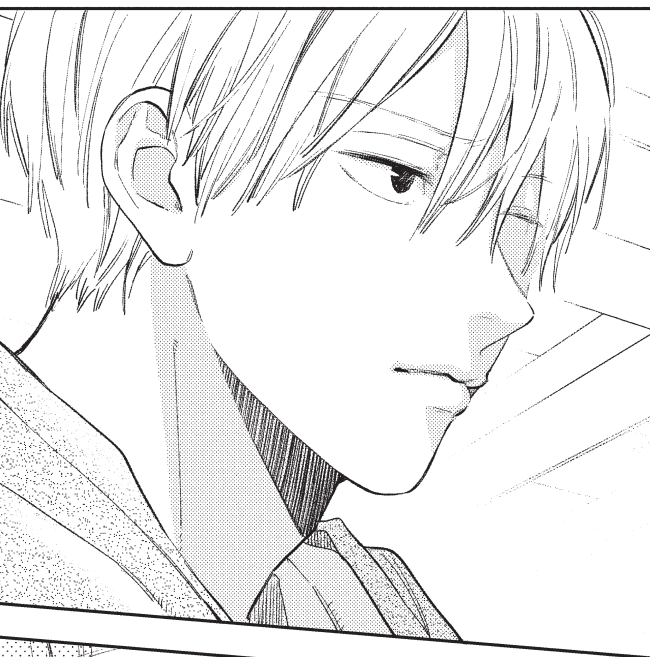
 A SIGN^{OF}
AFFECTION 

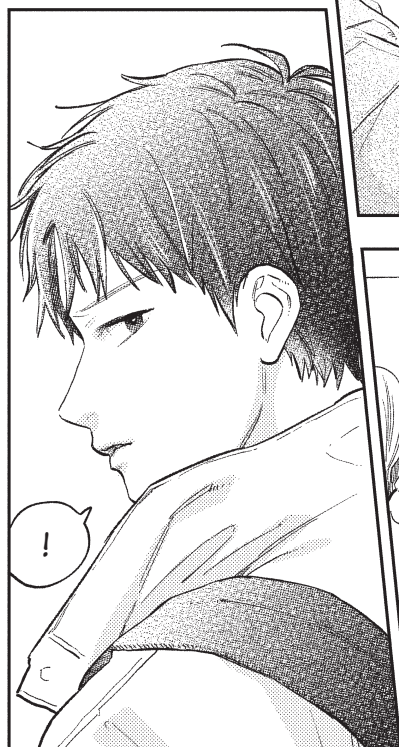


Sign.6

VOICES & FREQUENCIES









...ot.

Idi...



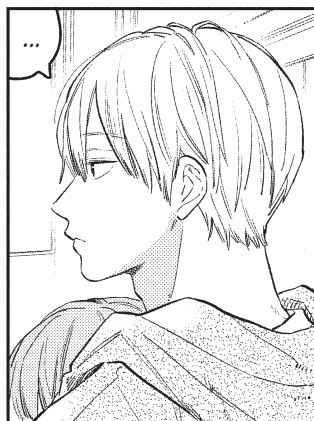
WHO'S AN
IDIOT?!

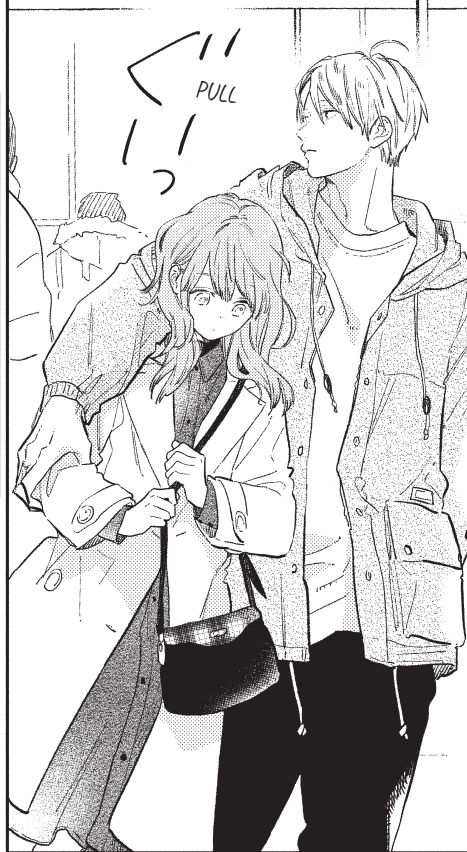
WHY'D
HE SIGN
"IDIOT"?



...STILL
MAD ABOUT
SOME-
THING?

IS
ITSUOMI-
SAN...







DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

JUST GUY
STUFF.



Did something happen?

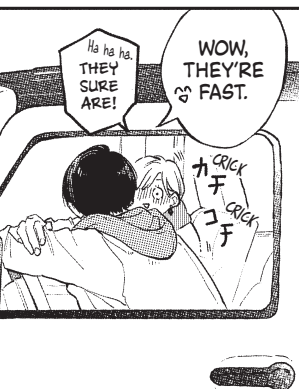


GOOD.

SMILE ニ ㄣ ...

Okay!

??
I FEEL LIKE
I SHOULDN'T
ASK ANY MORE
QUESTIONS
ABOUT IT.



Ha ha ha.
THEY'RE
SURE
ARE!

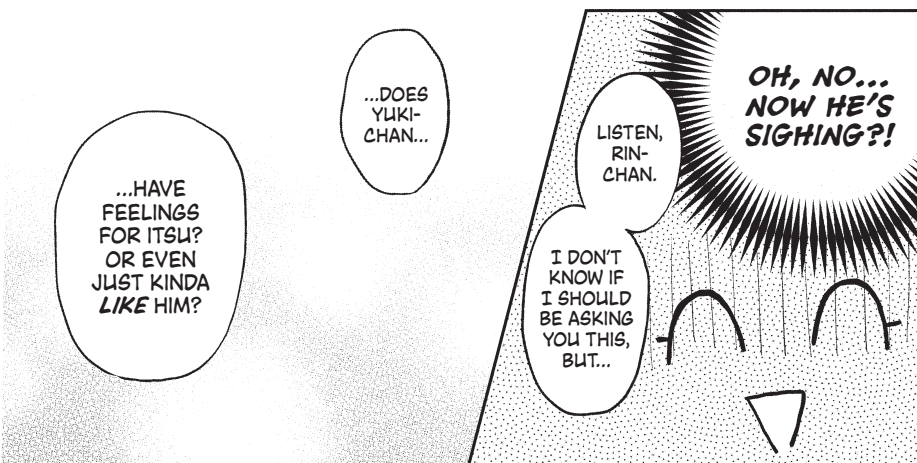
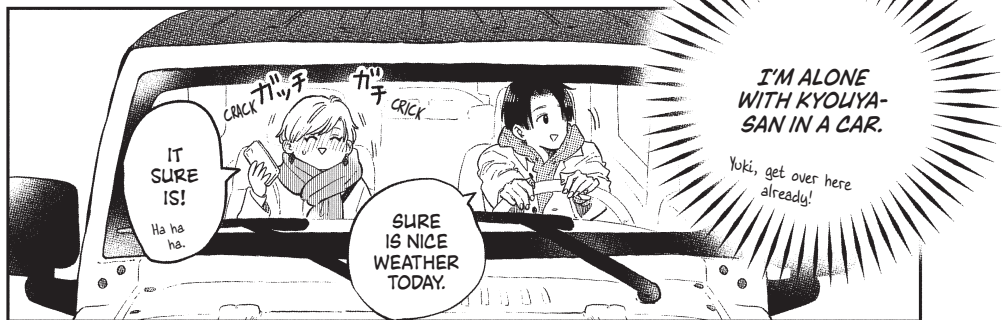
WOW,
THEY'RE
FAST.

click
カチ
click
コチ



Ah.

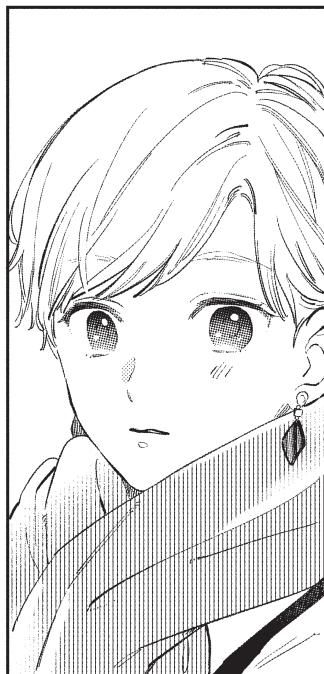
YUKI AND
ITSUOMI-
SAN SHOULD
BE HERE
SOON.





THE THING
ABOUT HIM
IS, WITH
HIS LOOKS,
GIRLS ARE
ALWAYS
FALLING
FOR HIM.

BUT HE DOESN'T
HAVE TIME FOR
LOVE RIGHT NOW.
HE'S TOTALLY
FOCUSED ON HIS
DREAM.



I'VE EVEN SEEN
CUSTOMERS GET
TURNED DOWN BY
HIM AND END UP
SOBBING AT THE
CAFÉ.

U
WOW...



BUT DOESN'T
ITSUOMI-SAN
LIKE YUKI BACK?

HE
SEEMS
REALLY
INTERESTED
IN LEARNING
SIGN
LANGUAGE.



SO YOU'RE
AFRAID
THAT'LL
HAPPEN TO
YUKI?

Y...
YEAH.



...HE'S
GOT THIS
DREAM...

...EVEN I'D
BE HAPPY
FOR THEM.
BUT, WELL...

IF I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
DOING
THAT...

...BECAUSE
SHE WAS
SPECIAL
TO HIM...



SO I KNOW
HE'S KIND
TO YUKI-
CHAN, BUT I
CAN'T HELP
WONDERING...

...WHAT
TYPE OF
KINDNESS
IT IS.

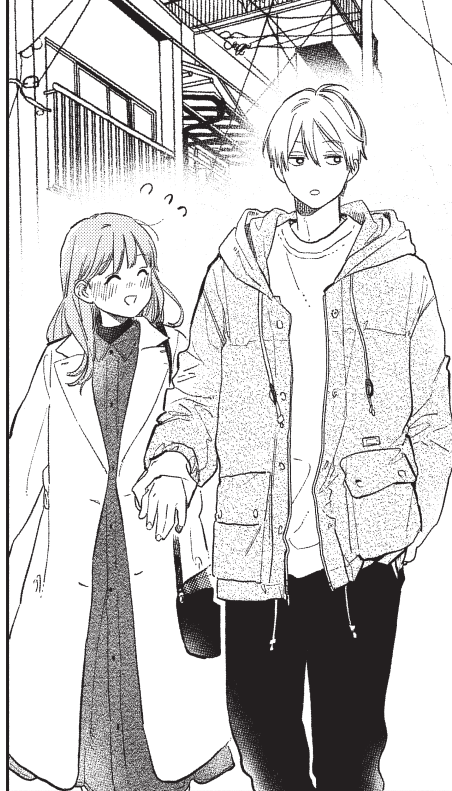
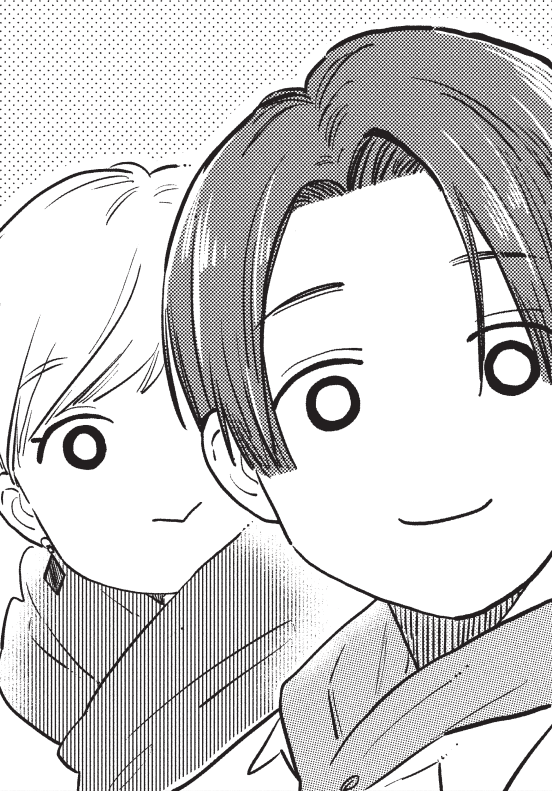


HE SAYS HE
WANTS TO GO
OVERSEAS AND
FIND A SCHOOL
WAY UP IN THE
MOUNTAINS OR
SOMETHING.

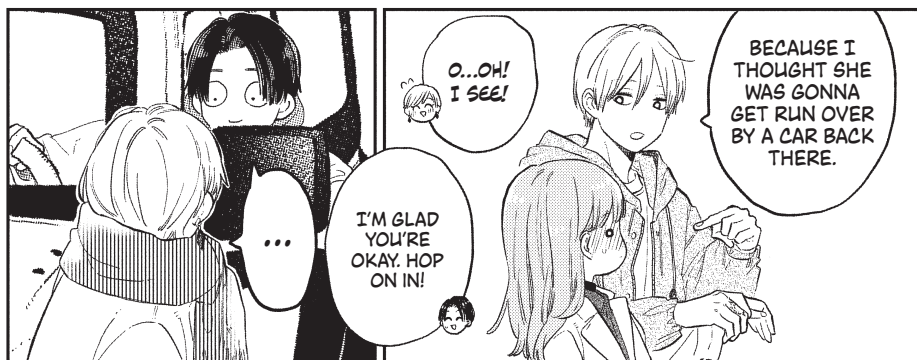
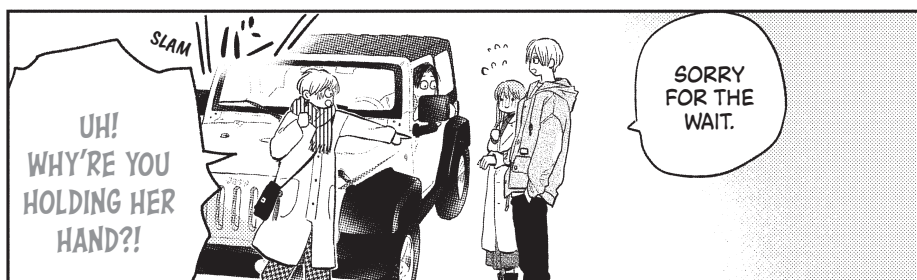
HE WANTS TO
GET A JOB AS A
TEACHER, AND
TELL CHILDREN
ALL ABOUT THE
STUFF HE'S SEEN
IN THE WORLD.

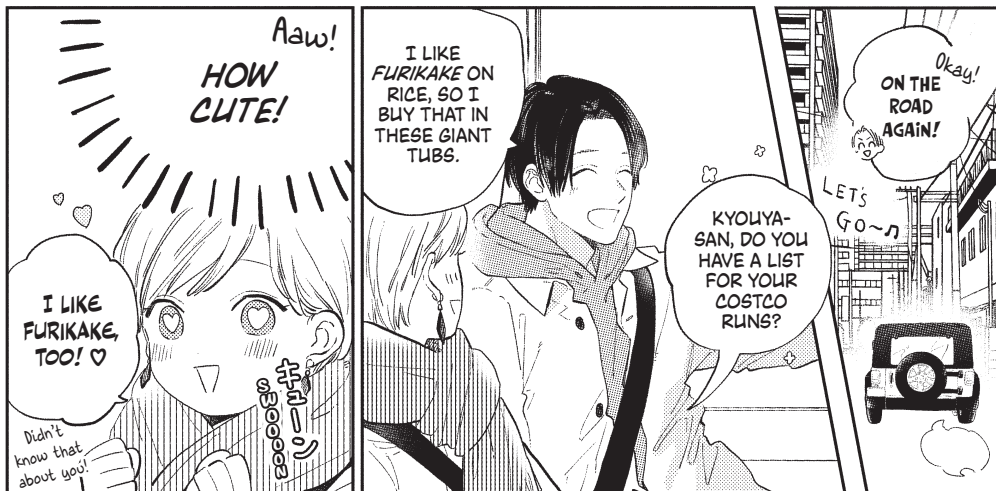
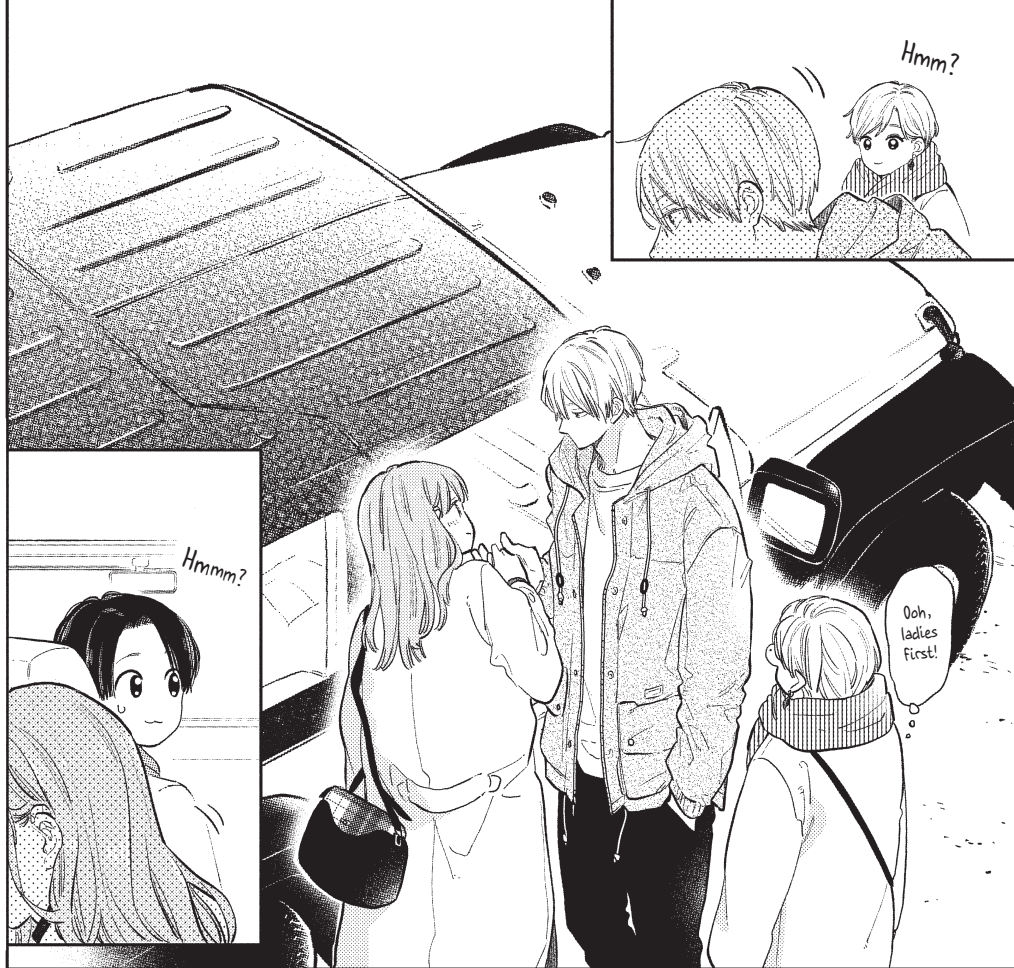


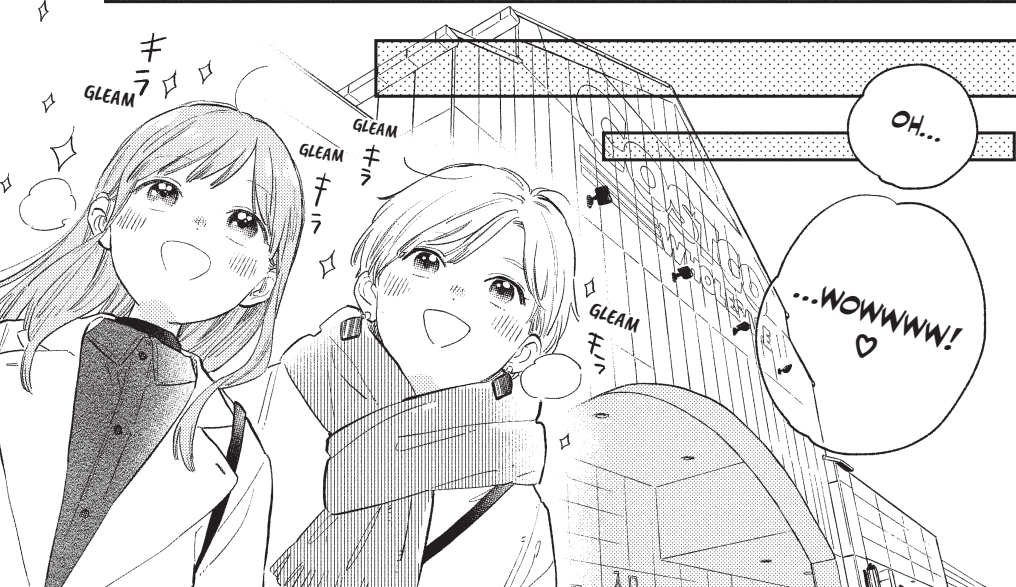
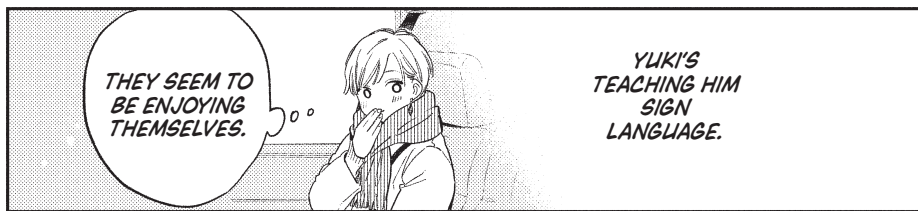
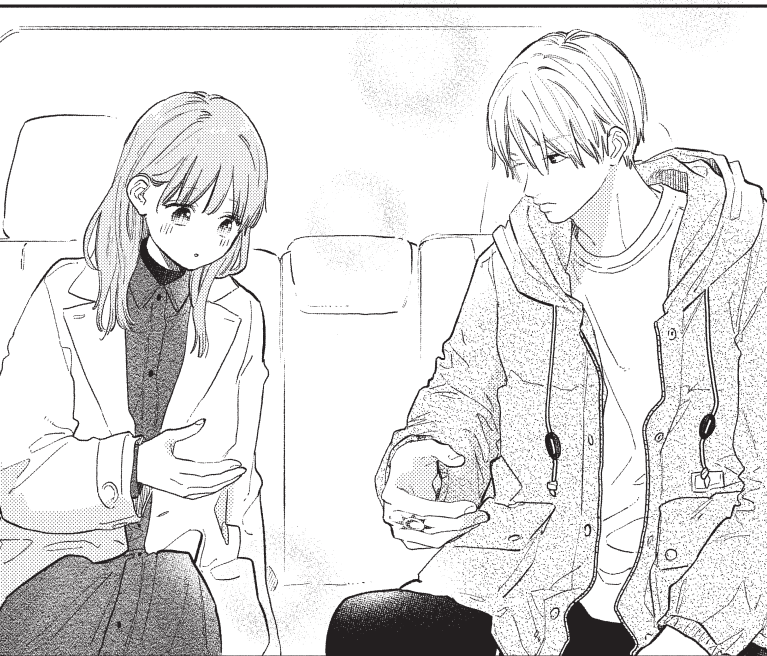
Ah! ...
THEY'RE
HERE!

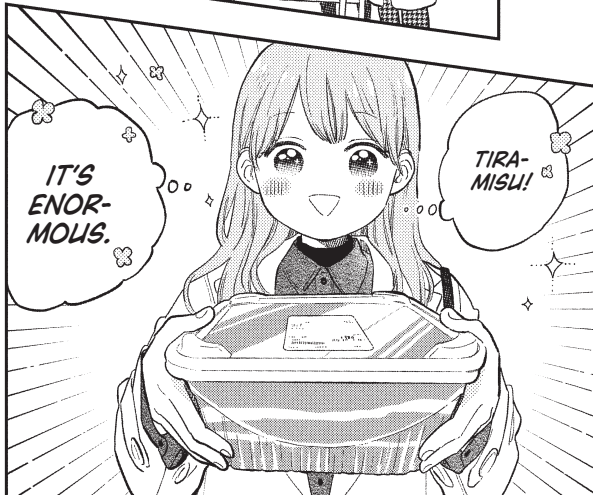


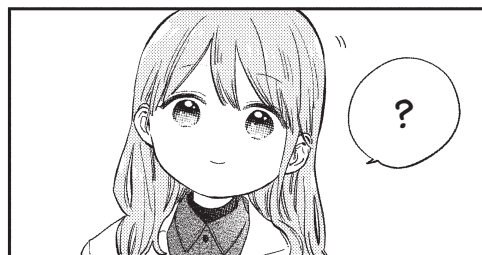
↓ LIKE SHE'S UNDER ARREST?









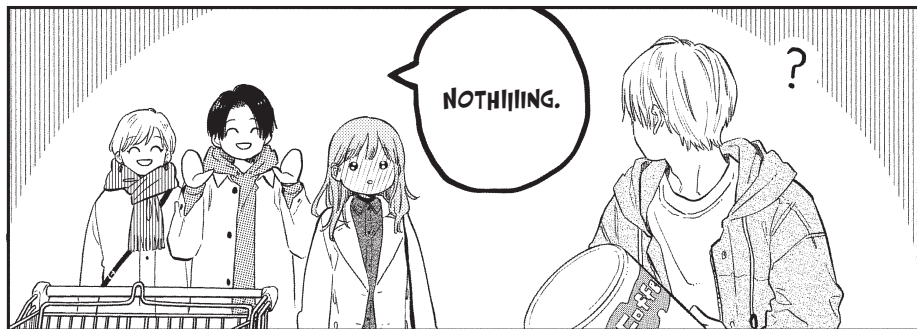




WHAT?

...REALLY
SOUND
THAT
DIFFERENT
FROM
NORMAL?

DID HIS
VOICE...



NOTHING.

?

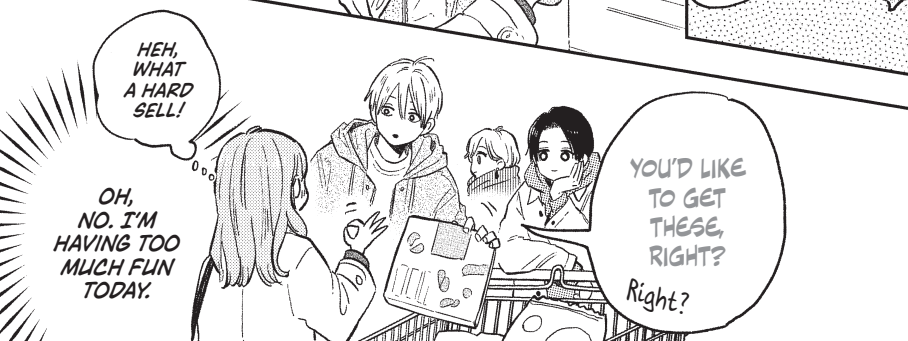
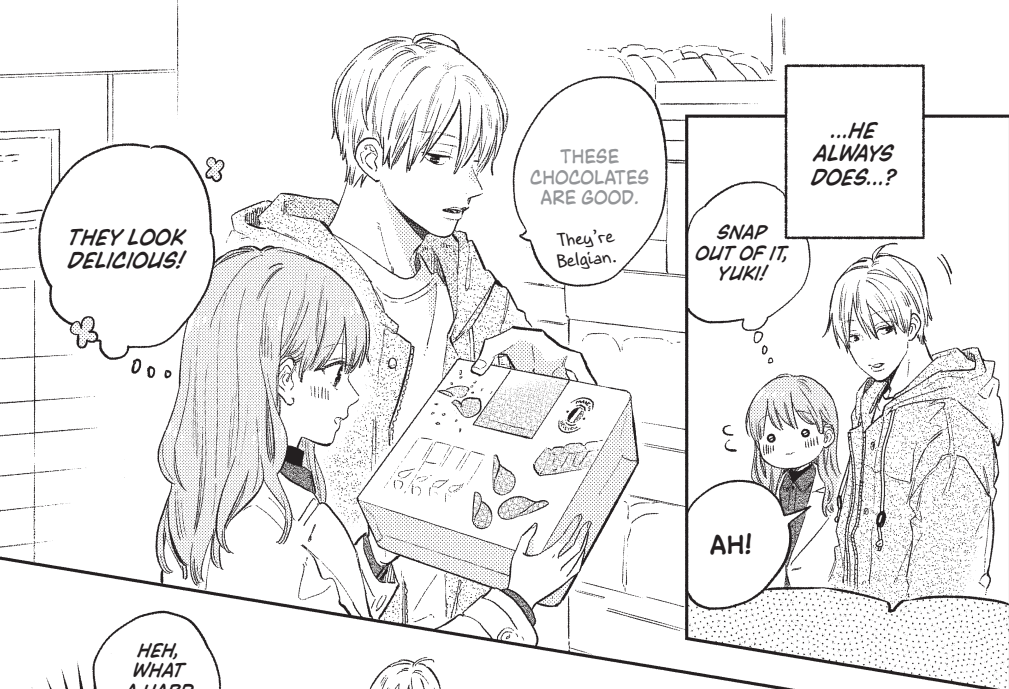


JUST
MAYBE...

IS THIS THE
ONLY TIME
HE'S CALLED
ME WITH
THAT GENTLE
VOICE?



WHAT'S
HIS USUAL
VOICE
SOUND
LIKE?





...FEEL THAT
WAY WHEN
IT COMES TO
HIM...

YOU'RE
THE SAME
WAY,
YUKI.



WELL,
I CER-
TAINLY...

I GUESS IT'S
BECAUSE WANTING TO COMMUNICATE
AND BE UNDER-
STOOD IS THEIR
MOST IMPORTANT
DRIVE.



...THERE WAS
SOMETHING
ABOUT THE
LOOK IN YOUR
EYES. I THINK
IT'LL ALWAYS
STICK WITH
ME.

WHEN
YOU FIRST
SIGNED "THANK
YOU" TO ME ON
THE TRAIN...

MY FACE
MADE HIM
THINK ABOUT
ALL THAT...?



...MAYBE I HAD
THE SAME LOOK
ON MY FACE
WHEN I WAS
TRYING TO SAY
SOMETHING TO
SOMEONE.

I THOUGHT...
MAYBE BACK
WHEN I STILL
DIDN'T KNOW
ENG-ISH...

THINK
YOU'D FIT?

PRESS

I'VE GOT IT!
THE NEXT TIME I
TRAVEL ABOARD,
I'M GONNA PACK
YOU IN MY
CARRY-ON.

HUH?

YOU'RE NOT
BAGGAGE.

IT'S
LIKE...

...HE
WANTS ME
TO COME
WITH HIM...

IS HE
SAYING
WHAT I
THINK
HE'S...

Ha ha ha.


JUST
KIDDING.

I wouldn't want to
feel like baggage.



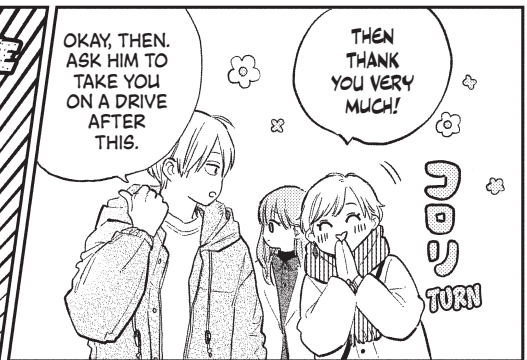
*...FLIES IN
AND HITS ME
STRAIGHT IN
THE HEART.*

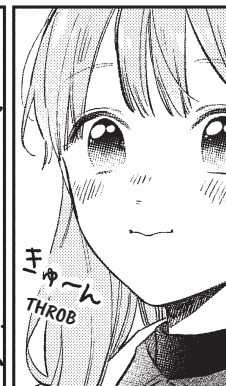
*IT'S LIKE
EVERY WORD
ITSUOMI-SAN
SAYS...*

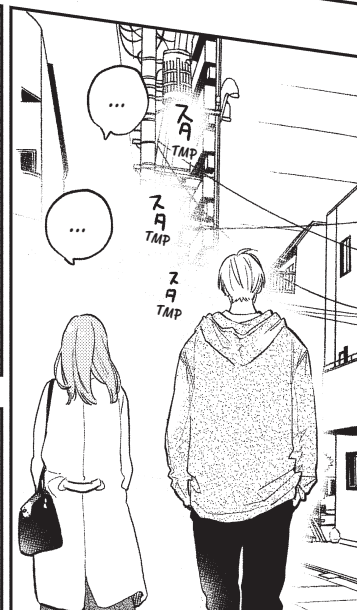
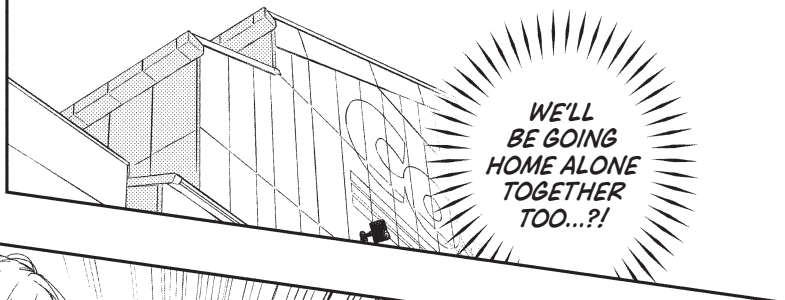


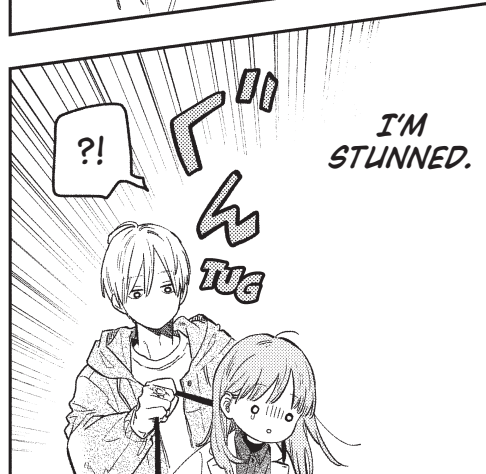
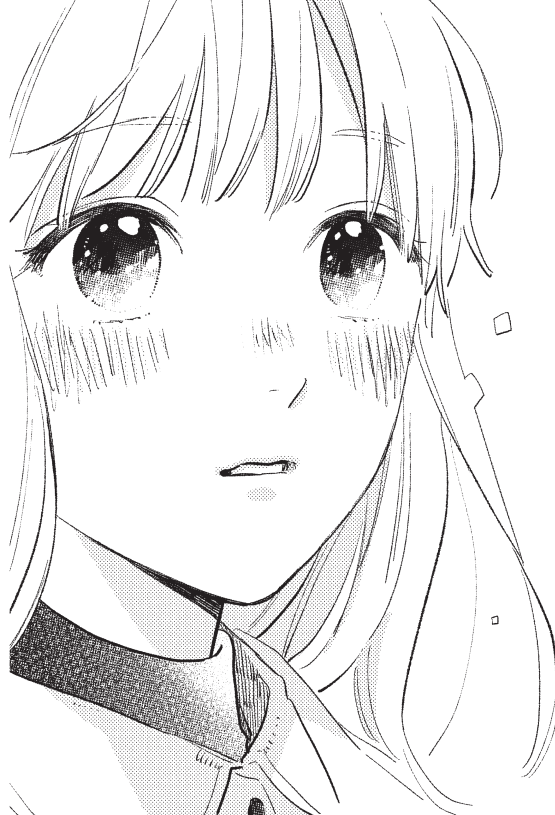
*...WHAT KIND
OF VOICE HE
USED TO SAY
ALL THAT...?*

*I
WONDER...*





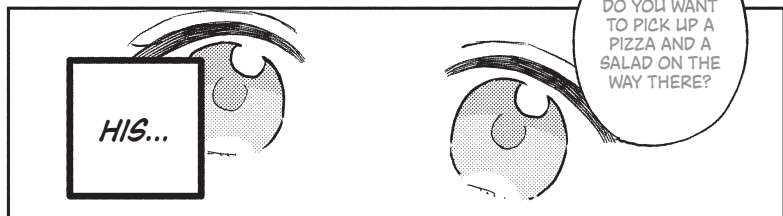






...EAT
AT MY
PLACE?

WHY
DON'T
WE...

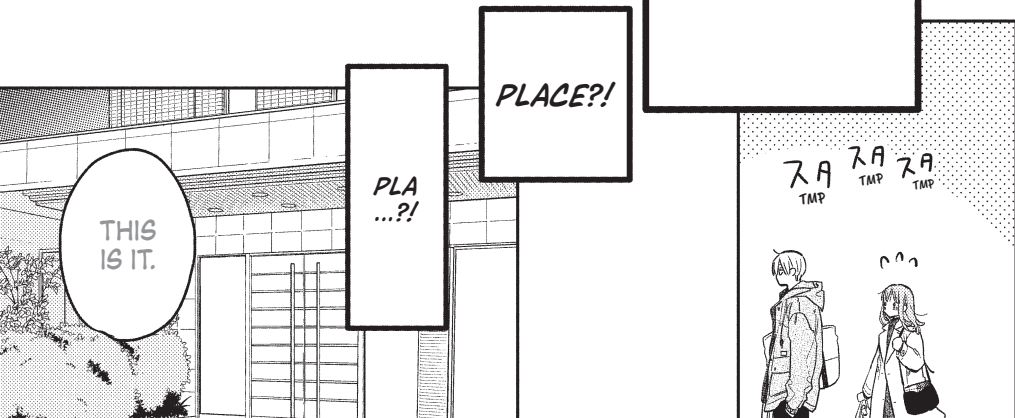


HIS...

Ah.
DO YOU WANT
TO PICK UP A
PIZZA AND A
SALAD ON THE
WAY THERE?



...PLACE?!

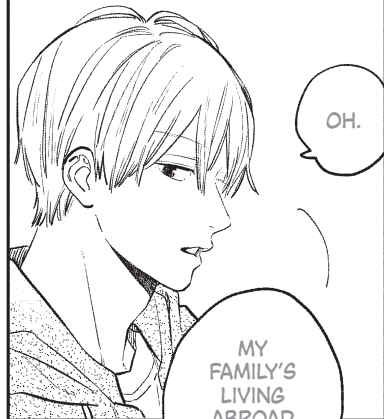


THIS
IS IT.

PLA
...?!

PLACE?!

スA TMP スA TMP スA TMP



OH.

MY FAMILY'S
LIVING
ABROAD
RIGHT
NOW.



Don't
worry
about
anything.

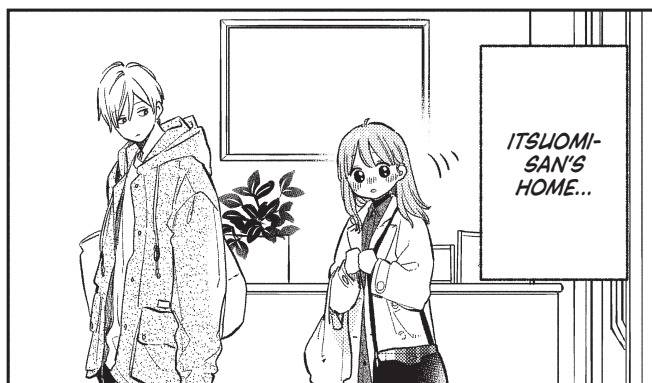


GLANCE
#30

HUH?

DOES HE
HAVE A
ROOM-
MATE?

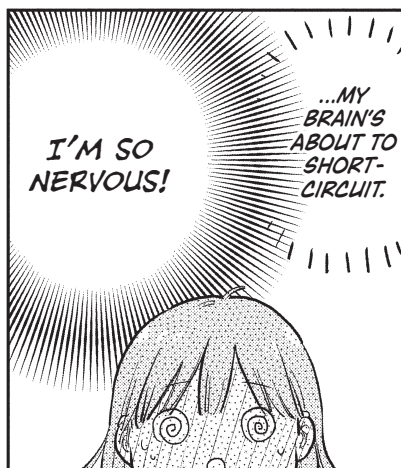
THIS
BUILDING IS
MASSIVE.



ITSUOMI-
SAN'S
HOME...

SO HE...

...LIVES
ALONE?



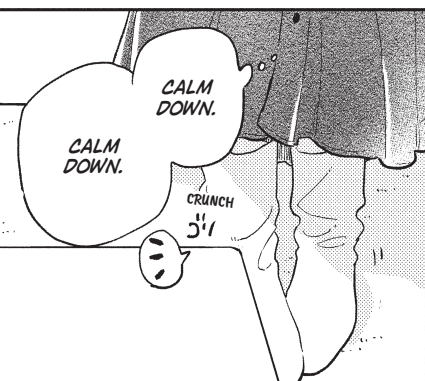
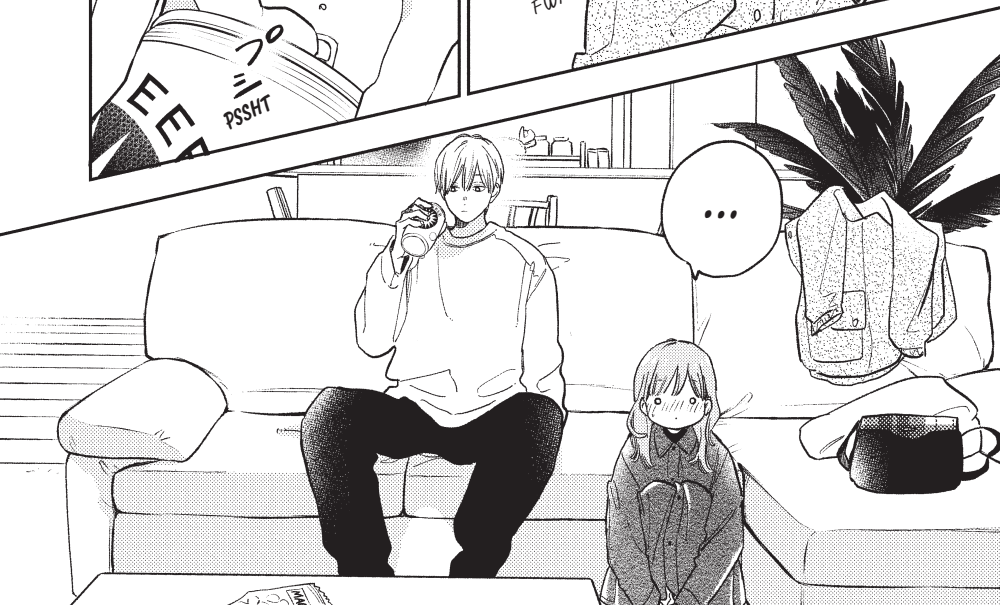
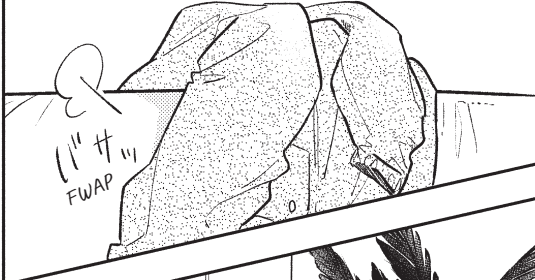
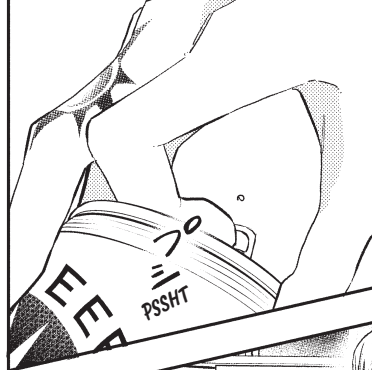
I'M SO
NERVOUS!

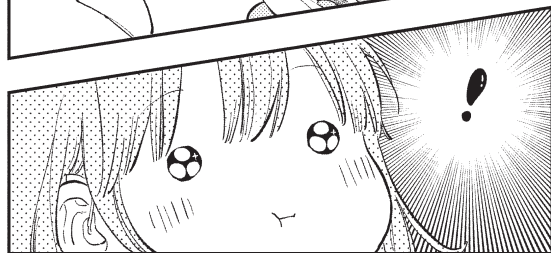
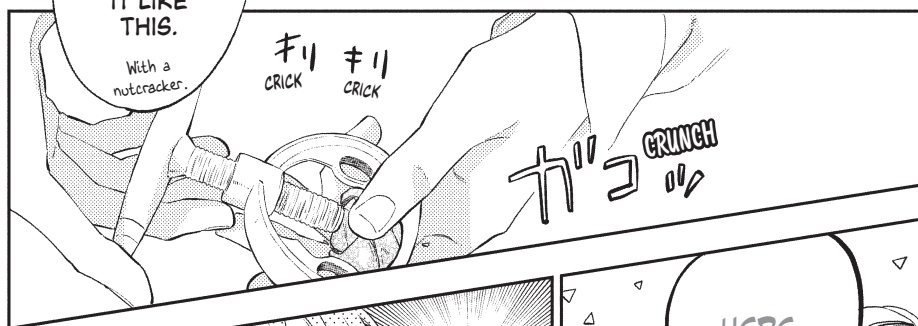
...MY
BRAIN'S
ABOUT TO
SHORT-
CIRCUIT.

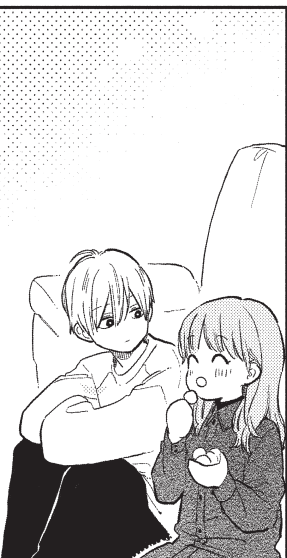
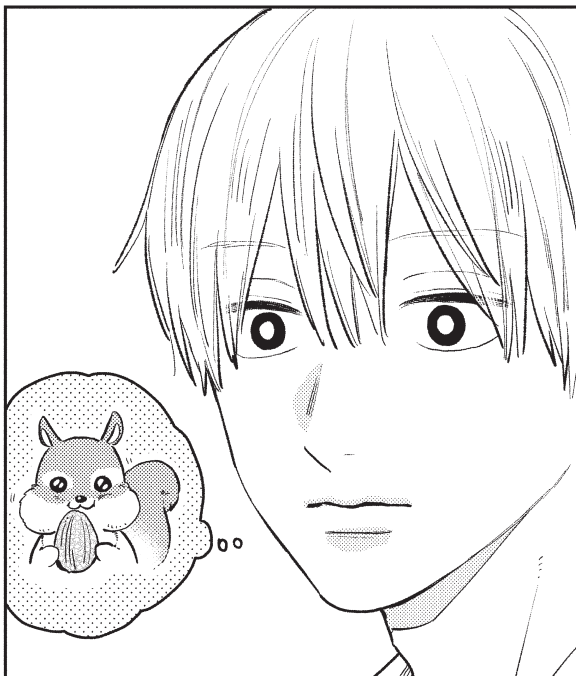
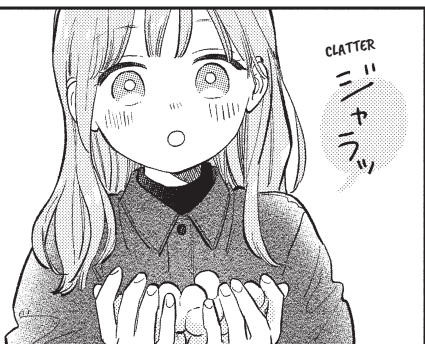
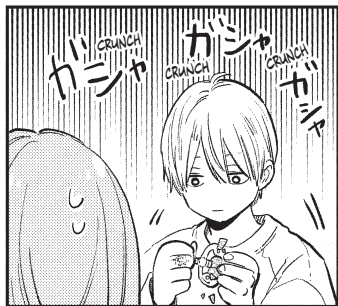


I
FEEL
A
LITTLE
LIKE...



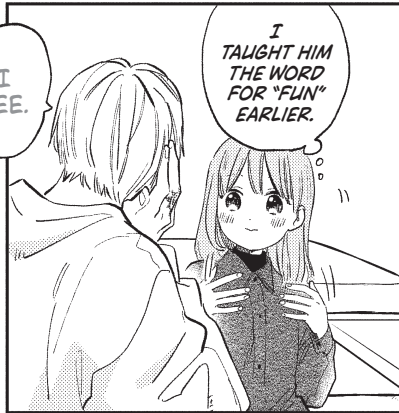
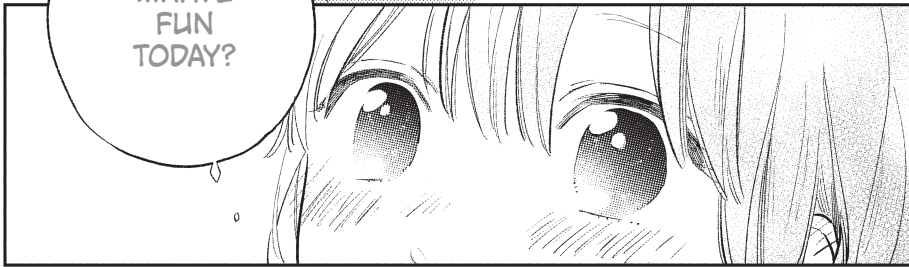


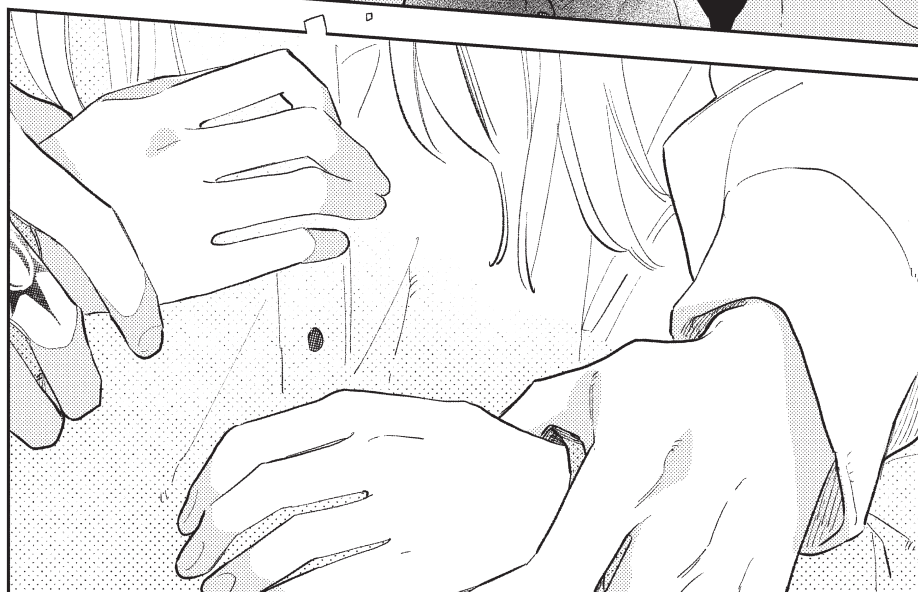
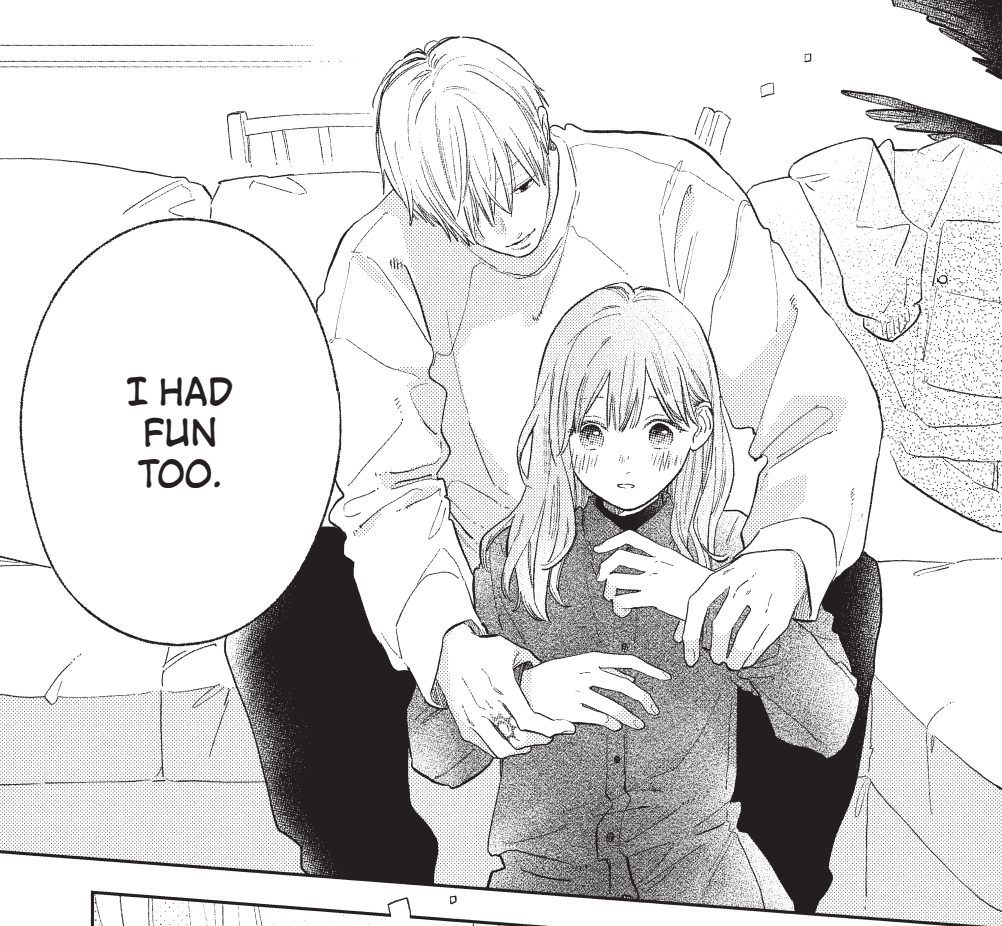


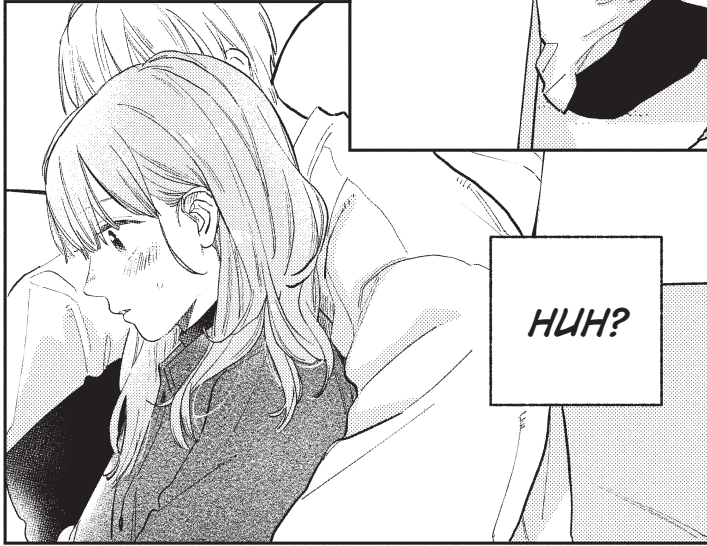
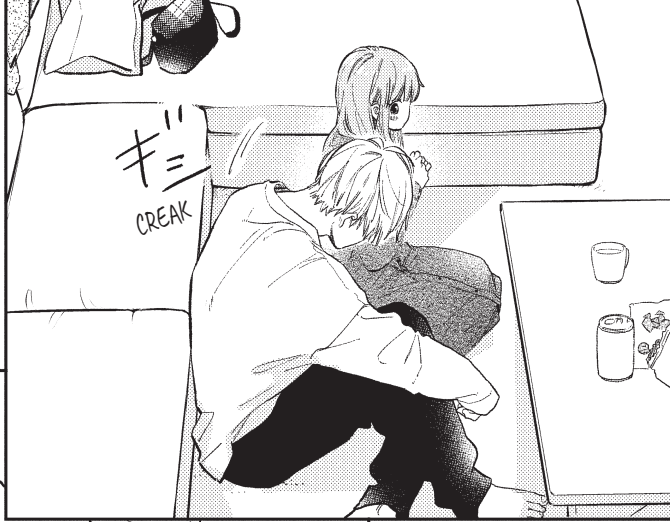




ハニ
CREAK

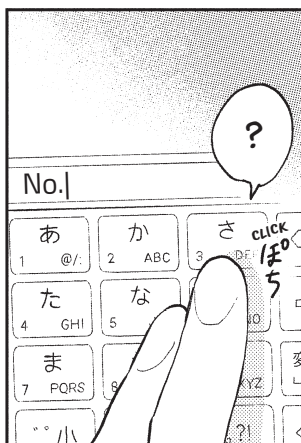


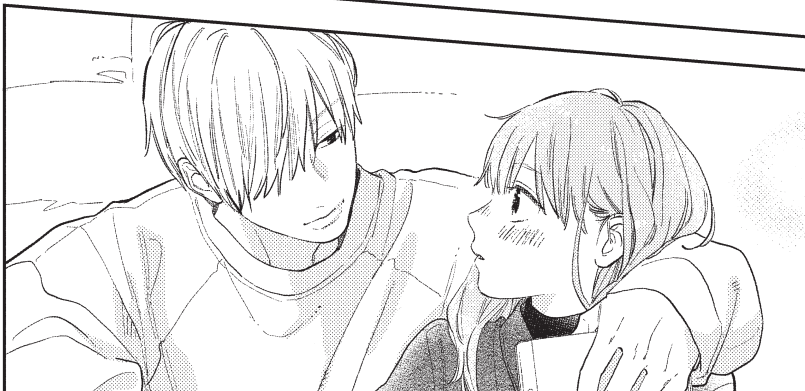
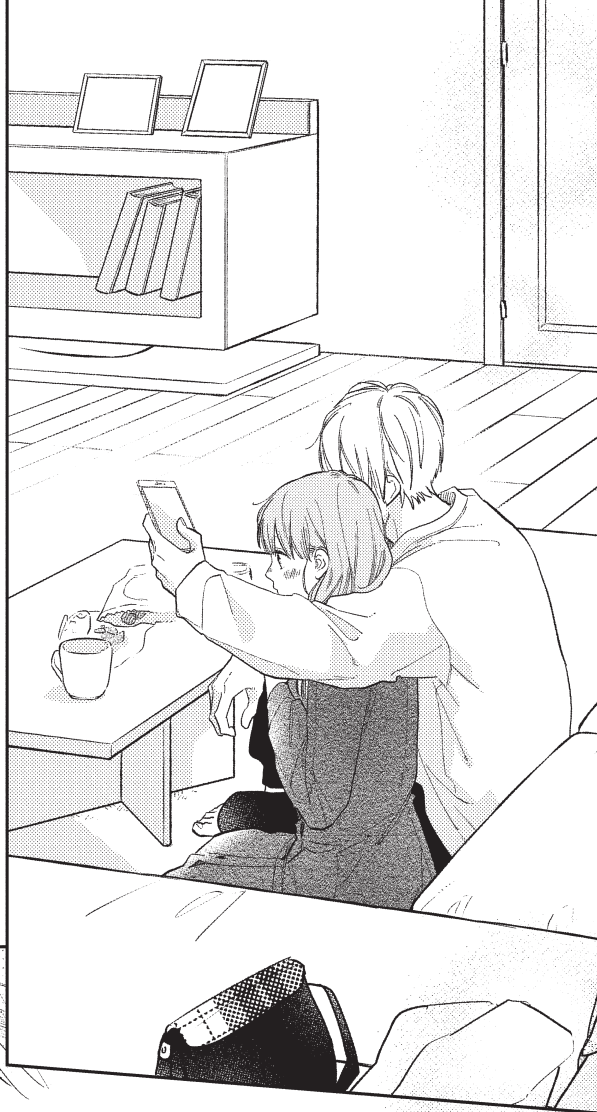
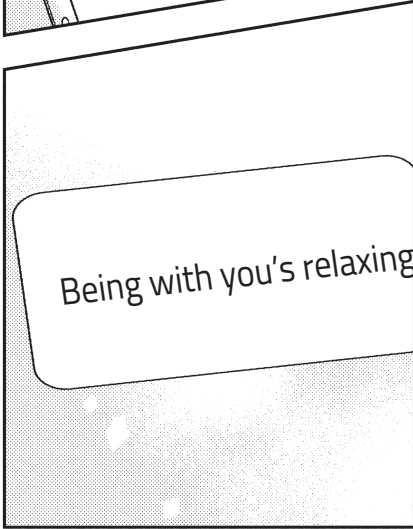
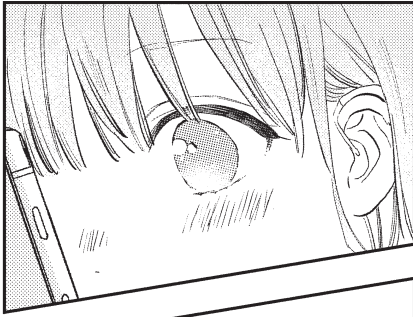


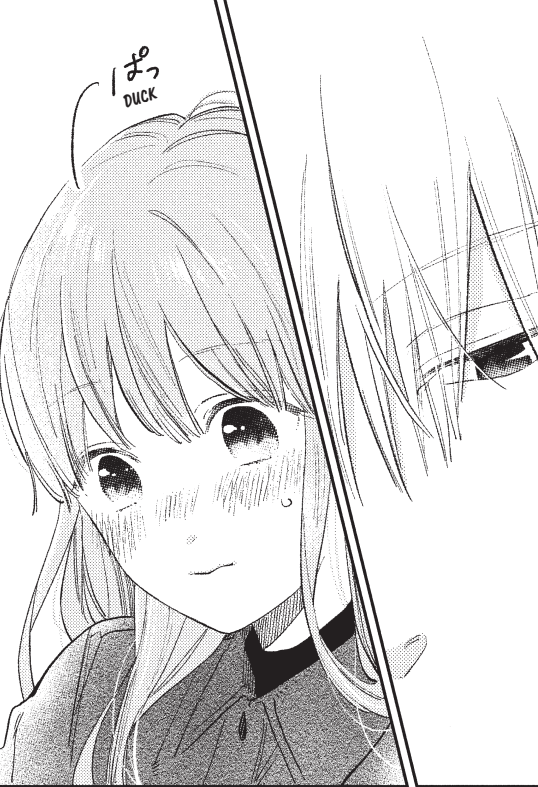




Has anyone ever told you that being with you makes them feel like sleeping?







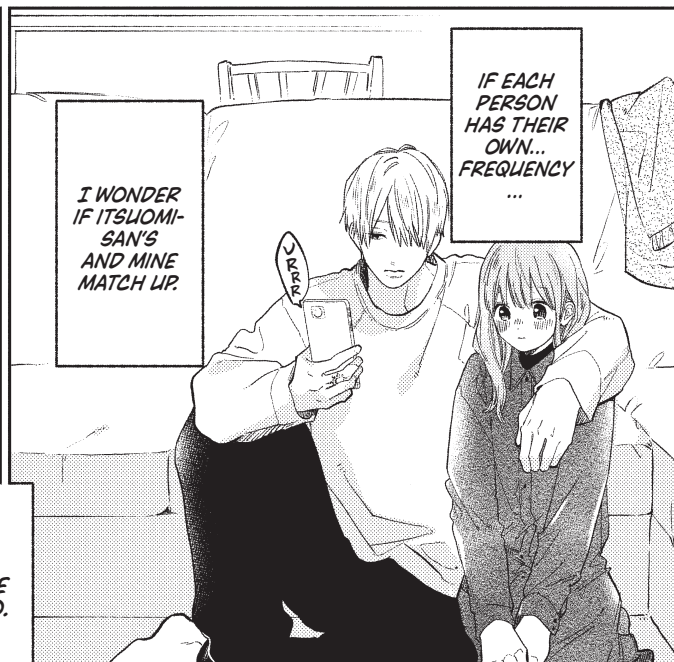
OKAY, BUT...

...I'M THE
EXACT
OPPOSITE OF
RELAXED!

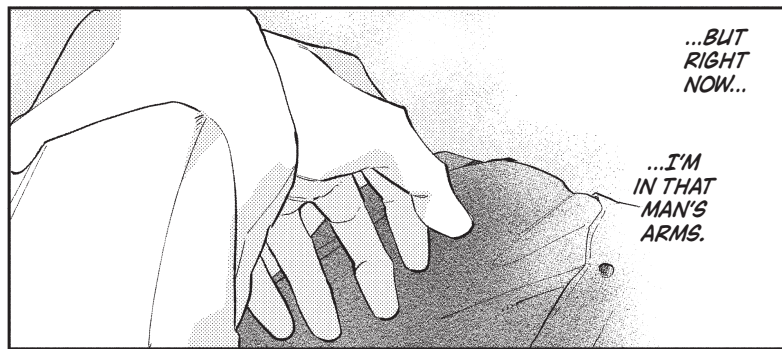
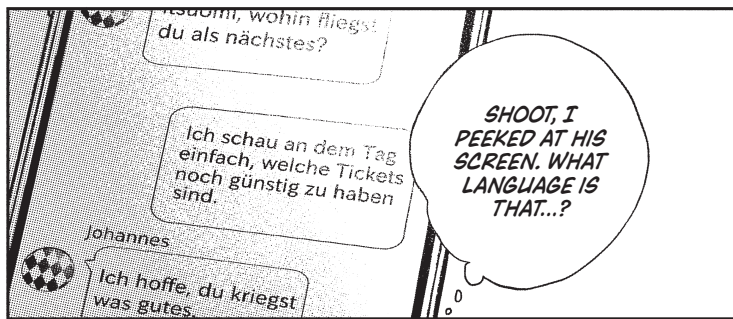


I WONDER
IF ITSUOMI-
SAN'S
AND MINE
MATCH UP.

IF EACH
PERSON
HAS THEIR
OWN...
FREQUENCY
...



*SOMETIMES
HE FEELS LIKE
A MAN FROM
A FAR-OFF
WORLD...*



*...BUT
RIGHT
NOW...*

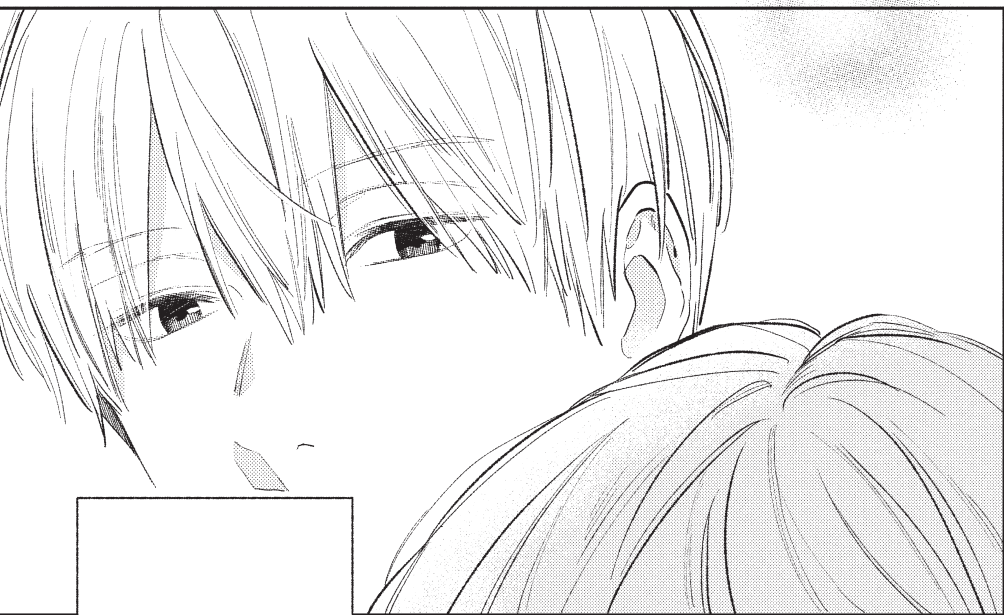
*...I'M
IN THAT
MAN'S
ARMS.*



*THOSE
ARMS...*

*...WRAPPING
ME UP SO
TIGHTLY.*

*SO TIGHTLY
THAT, WHEN
I'M WITH
HIM...*



*...IT'S LIKE MY
MIND GOES
BLANK.*

*I
WANT
TO
LOSE
MYSELF
IN
THESE
ARMS.*







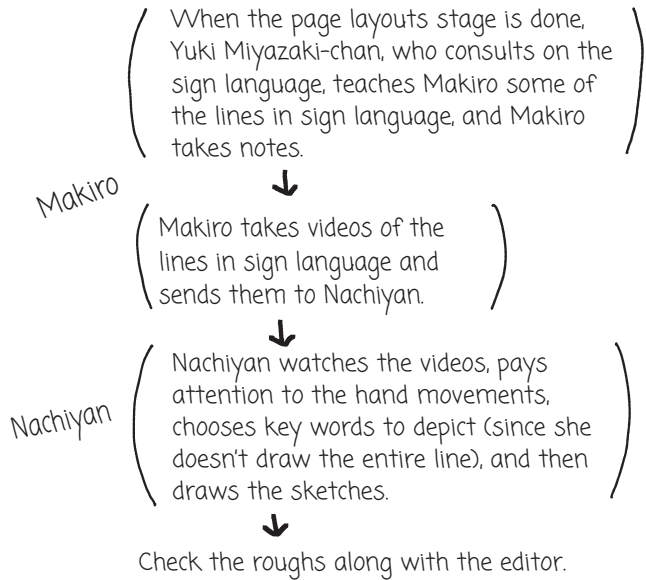


Sign.7

PLEASE SEE THAT I WANT TO BE SEEN

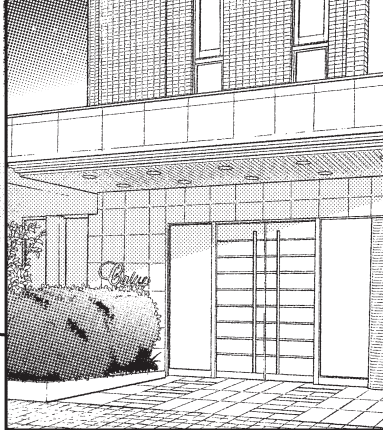
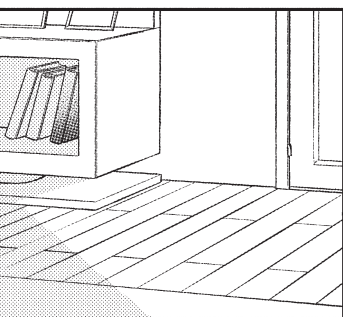
Behind the Scenes

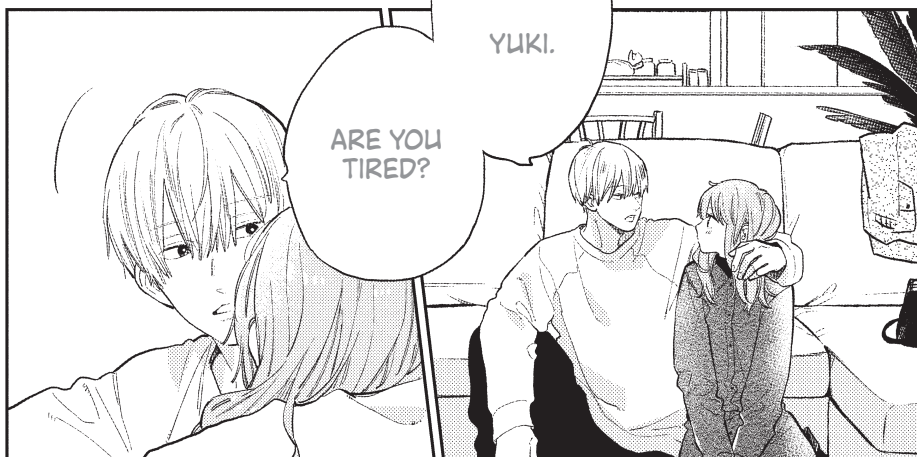
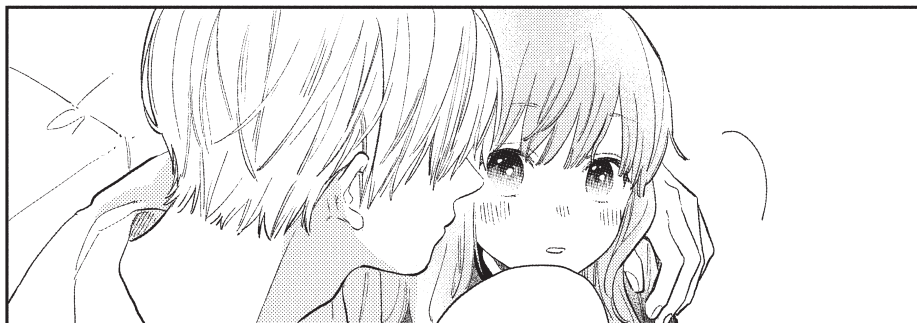
It's tricky to depict sign language in manga.
As for how we adapt it to this manga...

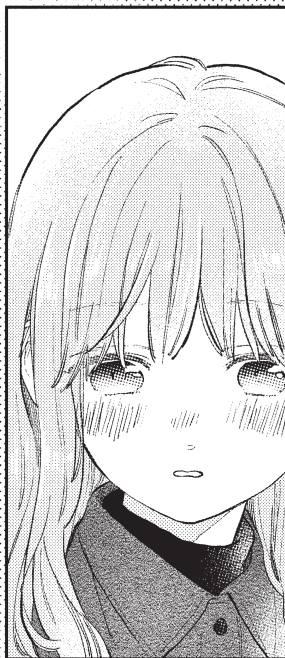
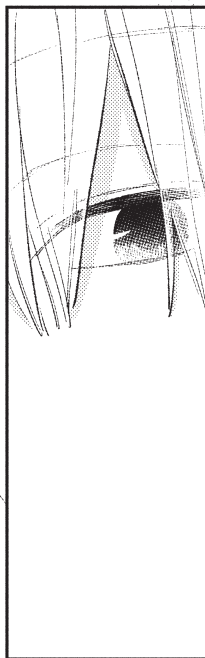
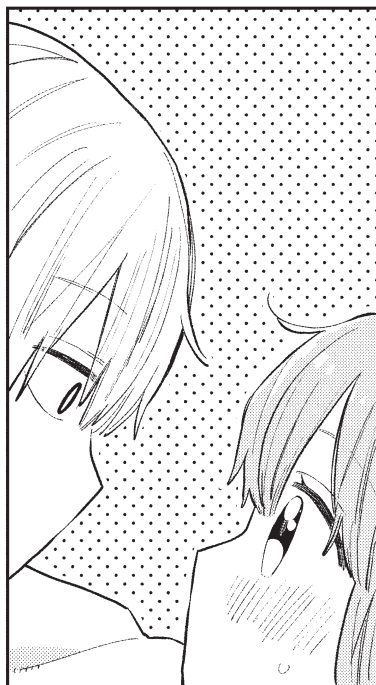


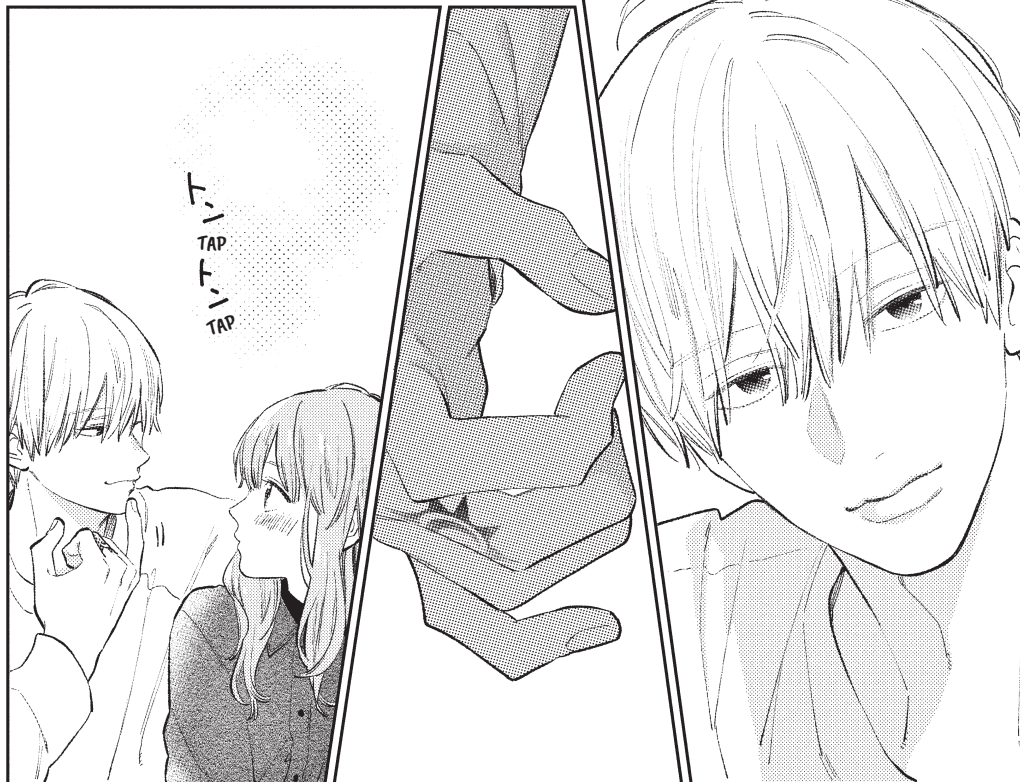
The lines appear in the manga!
That's the gist of it in the simplest terms. ◡

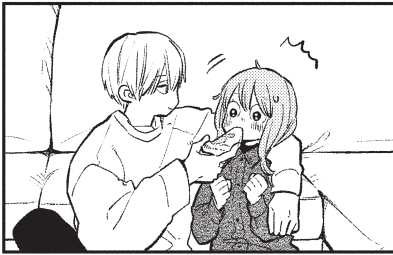
✂ Note: When the text in the balloons is a faded gray, that indicates Yuki is reading someone's lips and gleaning key words to follow the conversation. When some of the letters are shown sideways, it's to express that she had a hard time catching a particular sound or word.











BUT THE
MOMENT
HE SAID,
"IT'S
FINE"...

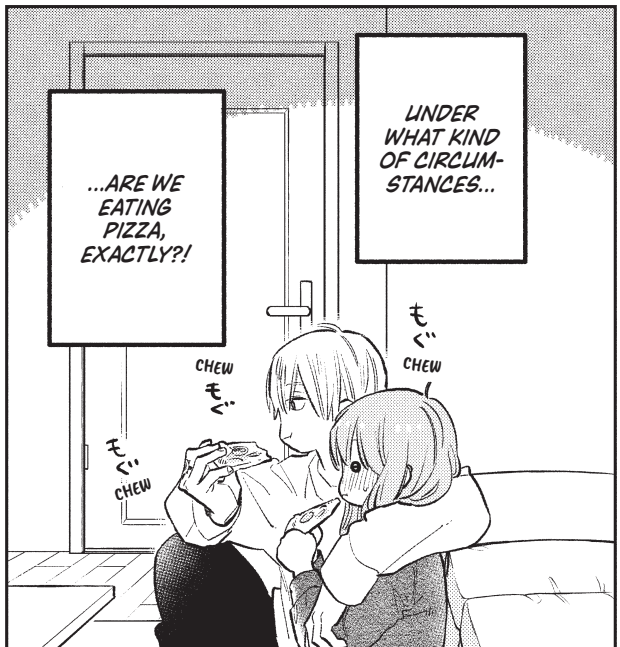
I REALLY
WAS
STARTING
TO
RELAX...

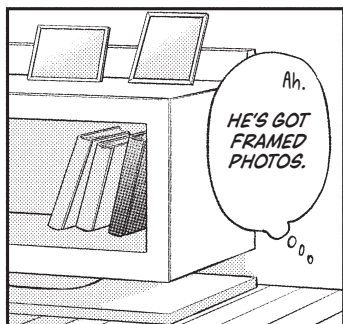
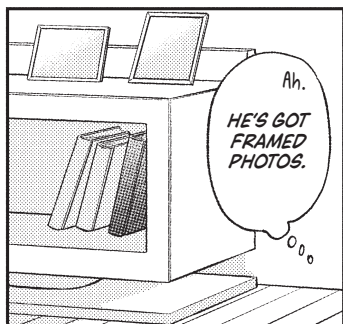
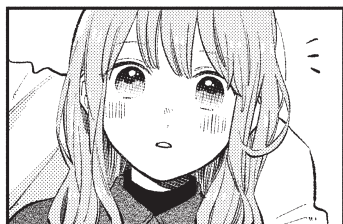
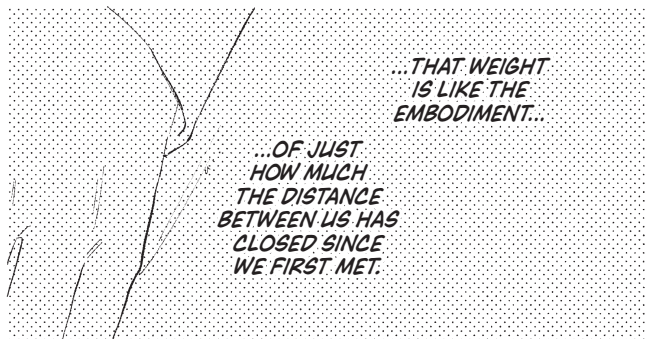
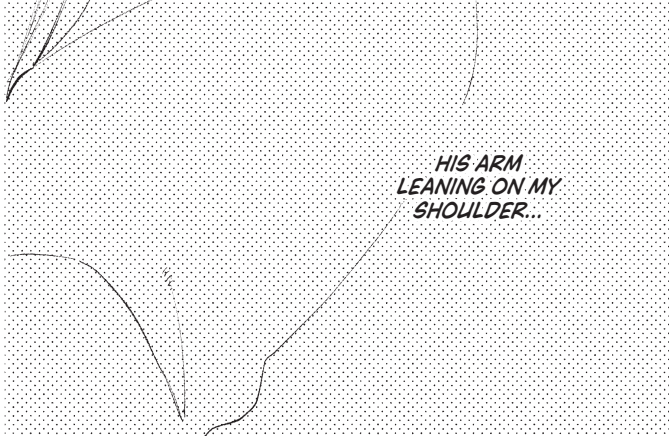
...I
TENSED
RIGHT
BACK UP!

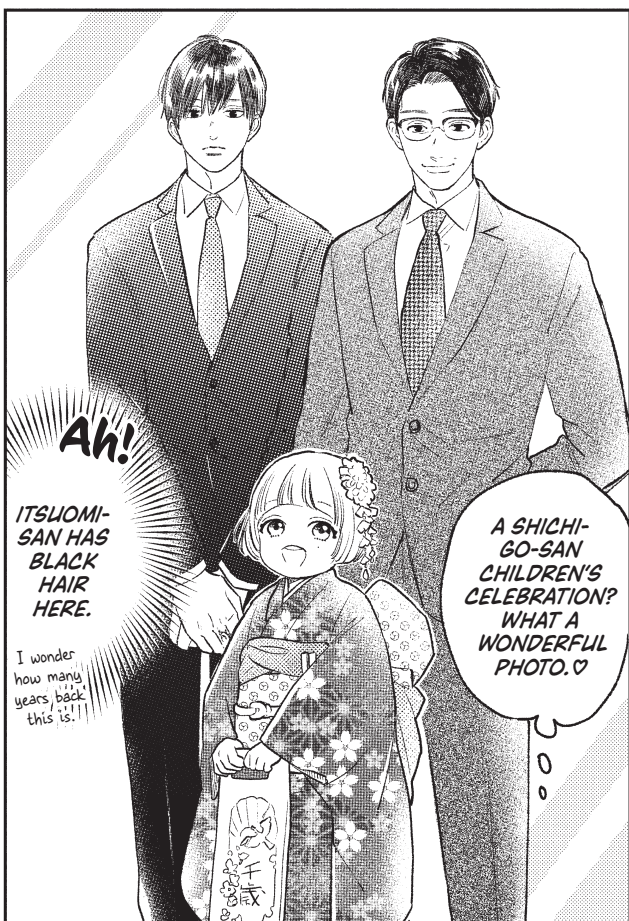
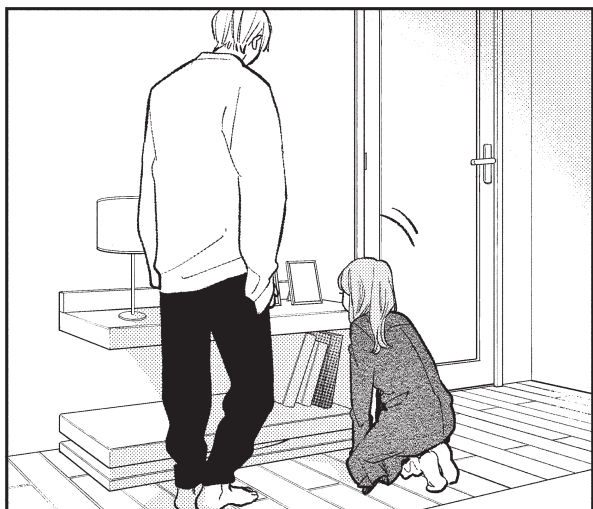
WHAT
DO I
DO...?

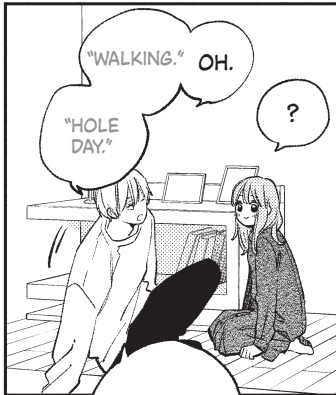
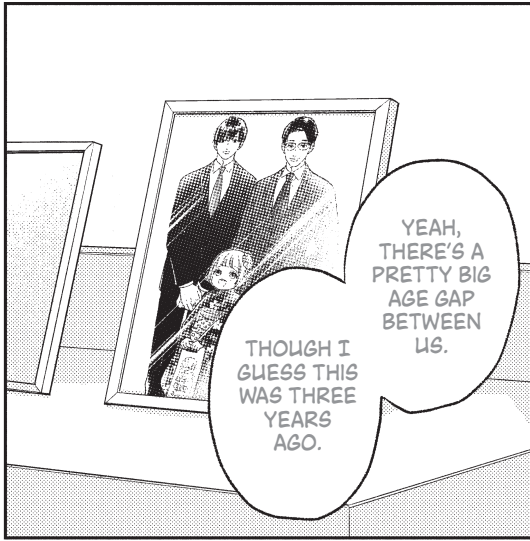
...ARE WE
EATING
PIZZA,
EXACTLY?!

UNDER
WHAT KIND
OF CIRCUM-
STANCES...

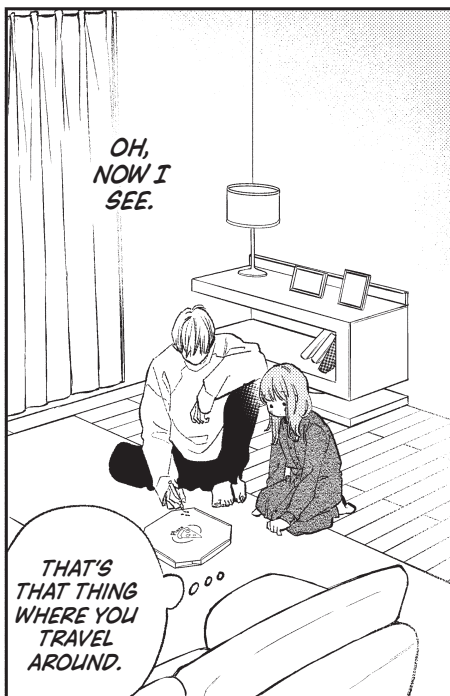




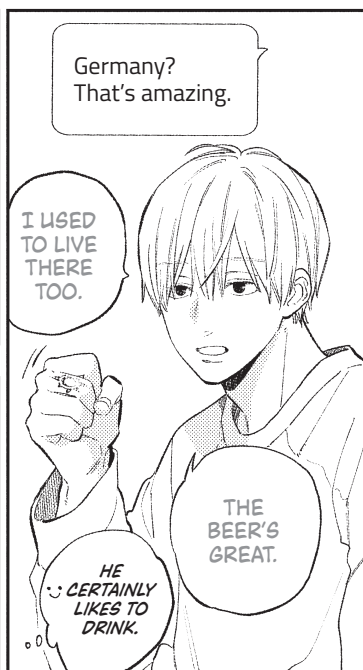
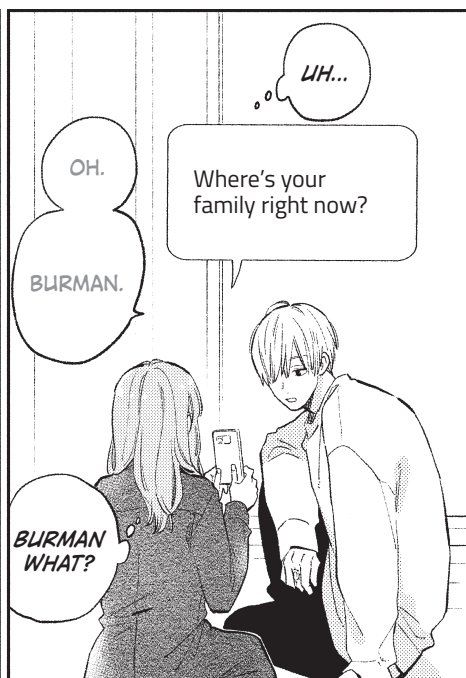




I studied all
on a working
holiday
I'm 22 now



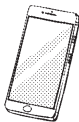




HOW
DO YOU
COMMUNI-
CATE?

Using my
smartphone.

Sending messages.



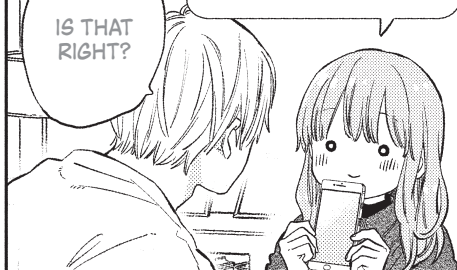
Writing it out if
it's really long.

Or using
gestures!



My family doesn't
use sign language.

IS THAT
RIGHT?



But the families of
my friends from deaf
school do.

It depends on
the family.

HUH.

It's not just lipreading.
Pronunciation is part
of mouthing.

...

A little and only to my
family.

Mouthing.

AND
ALSO...

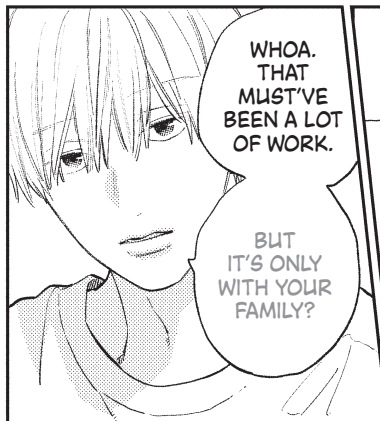
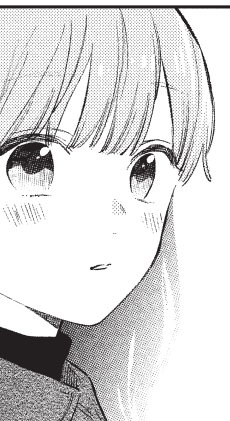
OH, LIKE
READING
LIPS.

YOU
DO THAT
TOO? OR
NO?

OH,
THAT'S
CALLED...
VOCAL-
IZING?

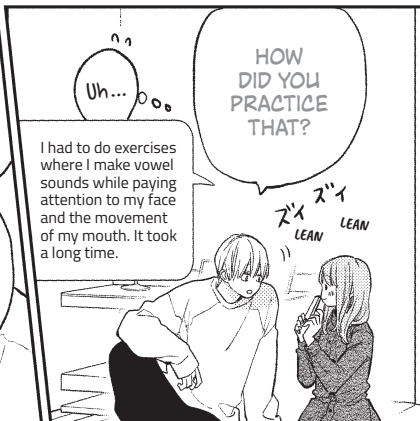
It's not just lipreading.
Pronunciation is part
of mouthing.





WHOA.
THAT
MUST'VE
BEEN A LOT
OF WORK.

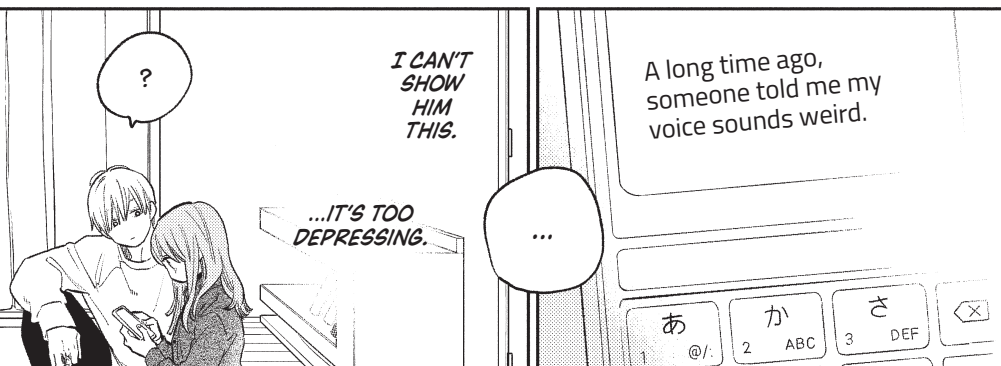
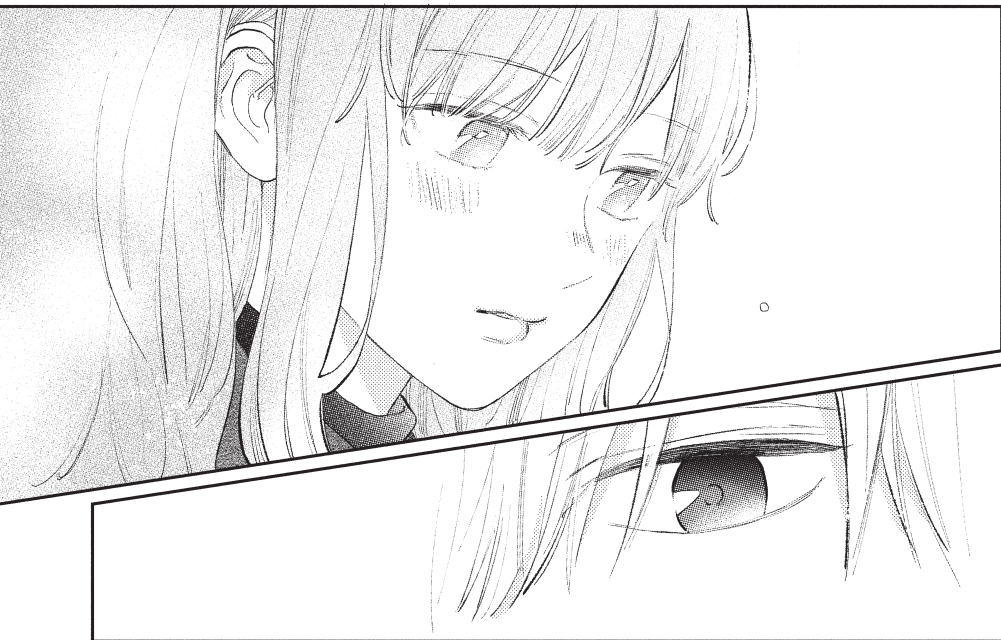
BUT
IT'S ONLY
WITH YOUR
FAMILY?



Uh...
I had to do exercises
where I make vowel
sounds while paying
attention to my face
and the movement
of my mouth. It took
a long time.

HOW
DID YOU
PRACTICE
THAT?

ズイ
ズイ
LEAN LEAN



?

I CAN'T
SHOW
HIM
THIS.

...IT'S TOO
DEPRESSING.

...

A long time ago,
someone told me my
voice sounds weird.

あ

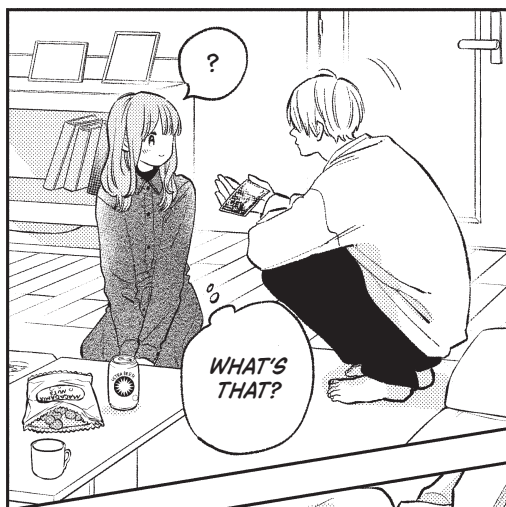
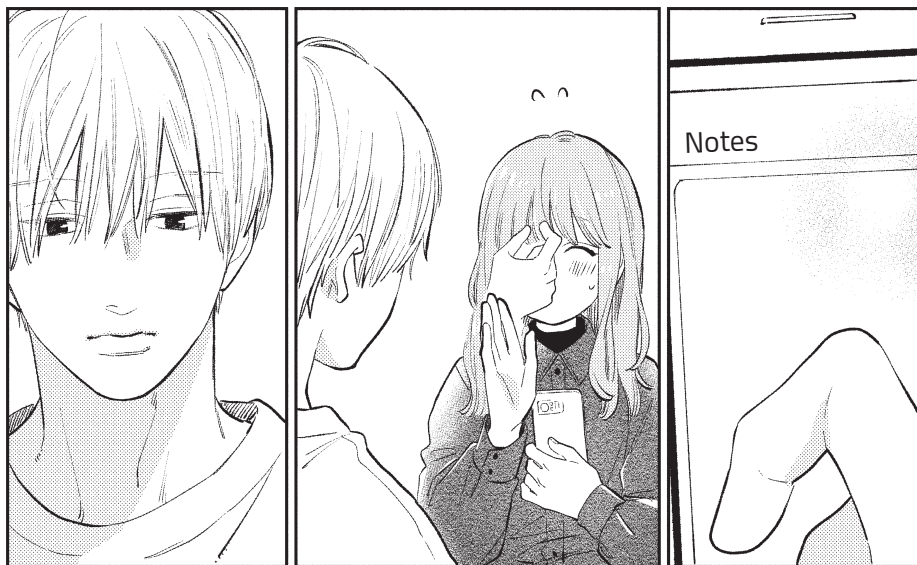
か

さ

DEF

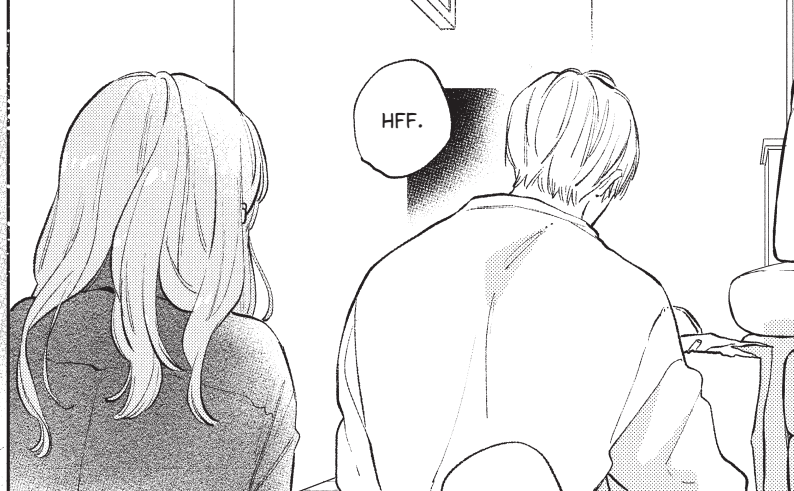
2 ABC

3 DEF









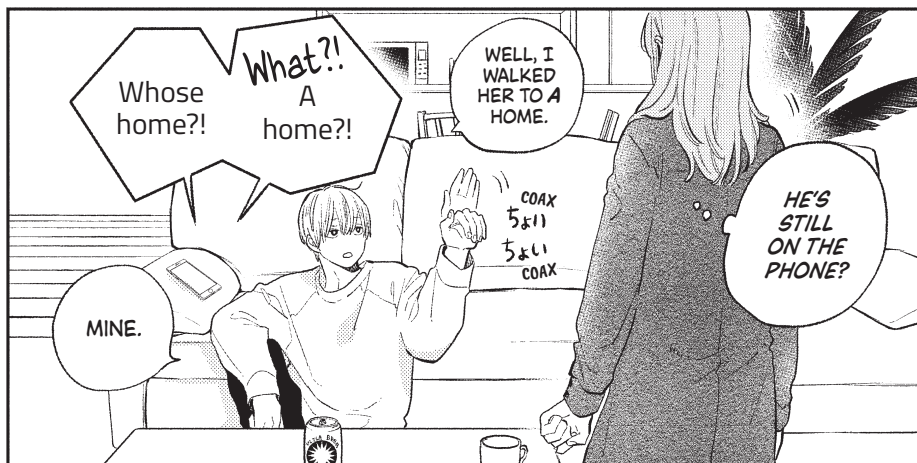
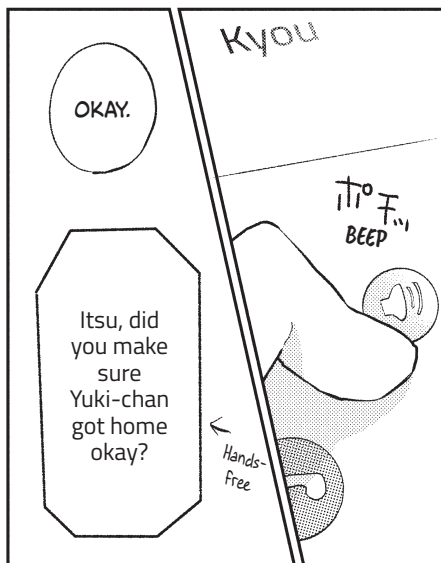


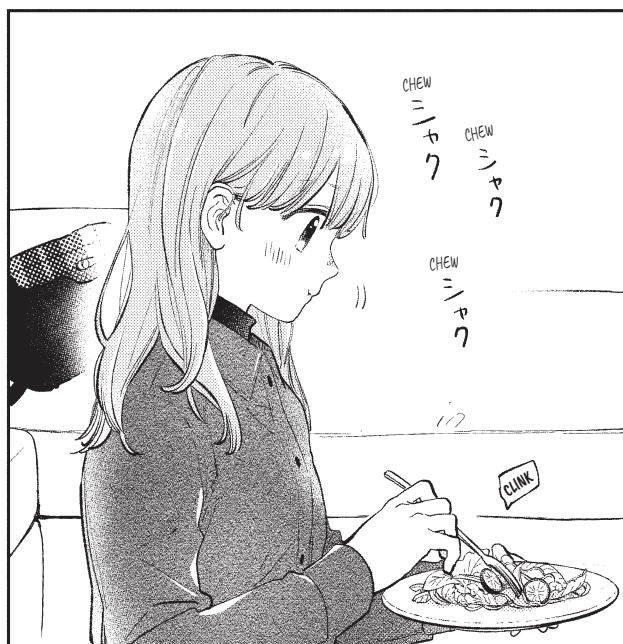
OH NO.

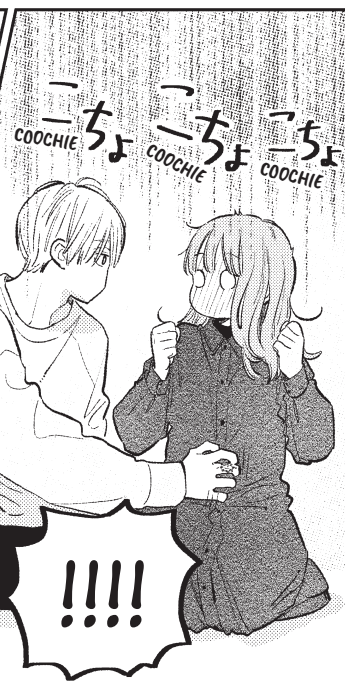
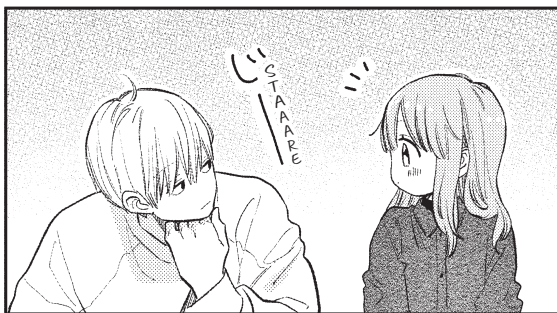
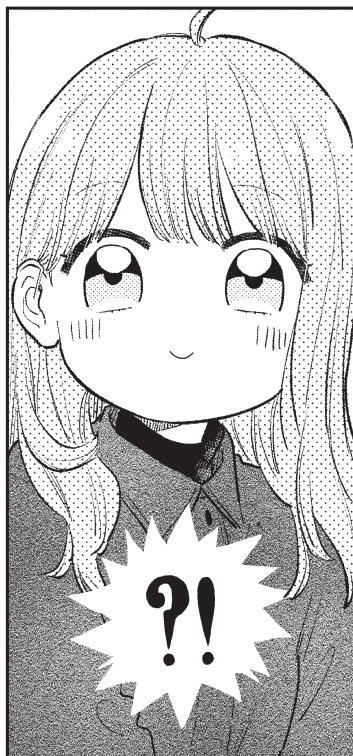
MY
VOICE...

BUZZZZ

BUZZZZ







WHAT...

...DID
HE JUST
SAY?

SO
THAT'S...

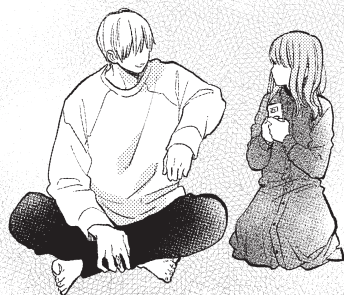
...WHAT
YUKI'S
LAUGH
SOUNDS
LIKE.

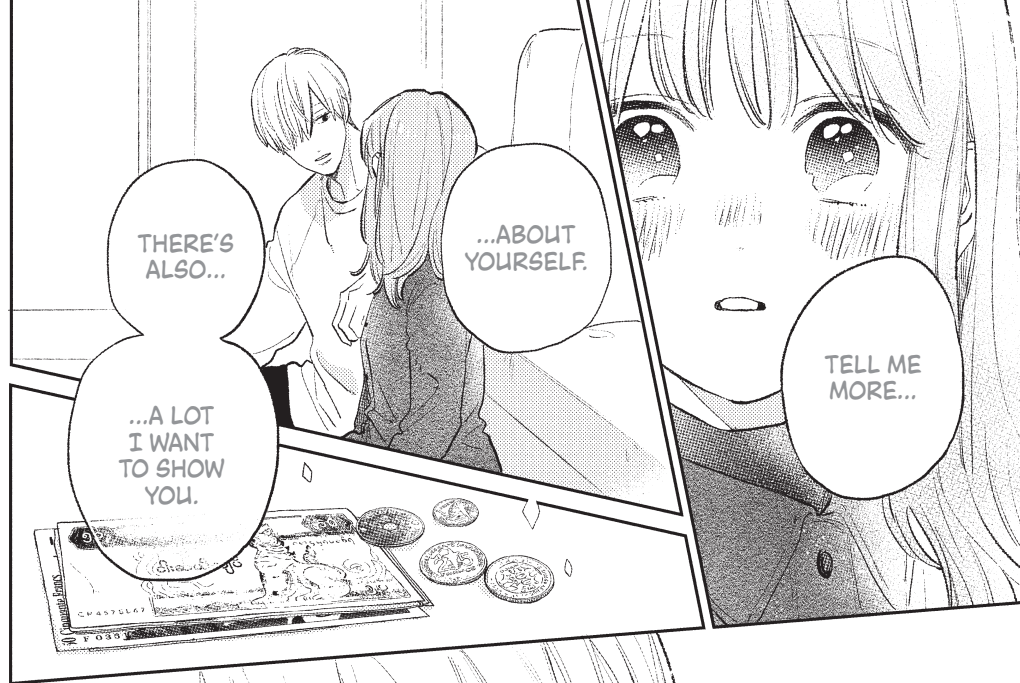
I THOUGHT,
"WOW, IT'S
SO CUTE."

NO.

Didn't it
sound weird?

T = TAP
f = TAP
:





THERE'S
ALSO...

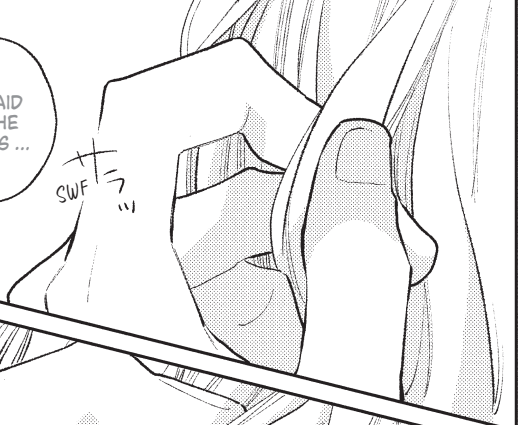
...ABOUT
YOURSELF.

...A LOT
I WANT
TO SHOW
YOU.

TELL ME
MORE...



TELL ME
SOME-
THING...



YOU SAID
ALL THE
SOUNDS ...

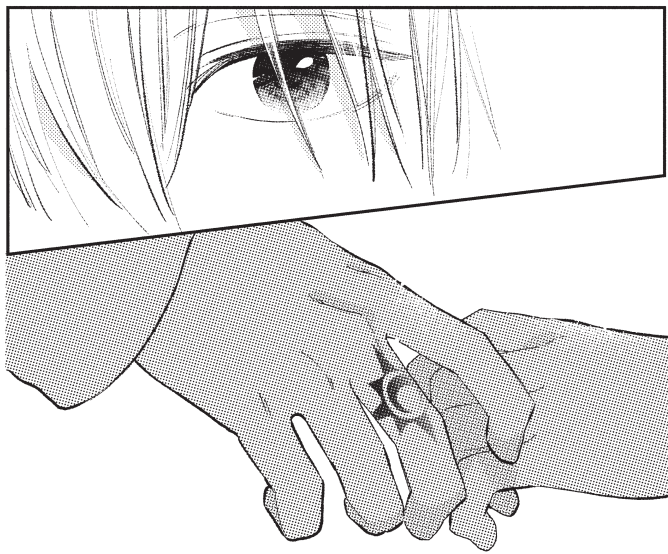
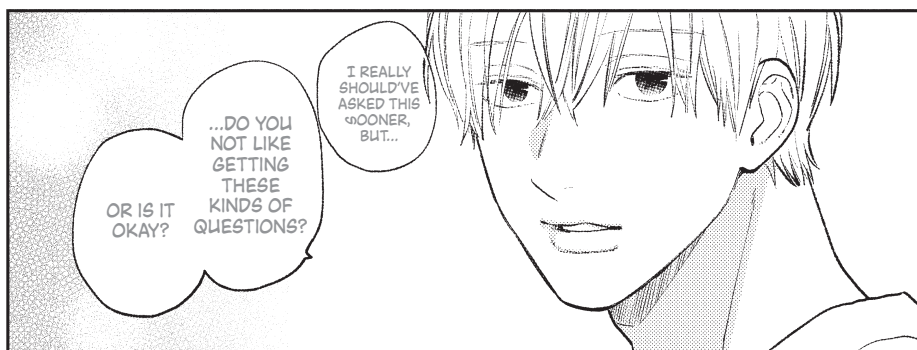
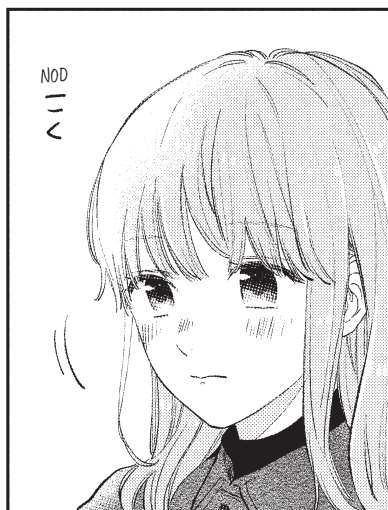
SWF
フ
ッ



...KIND OF
BLEND
TOGETHER.



WHAT
IS THAT
WORLD
LIKE?





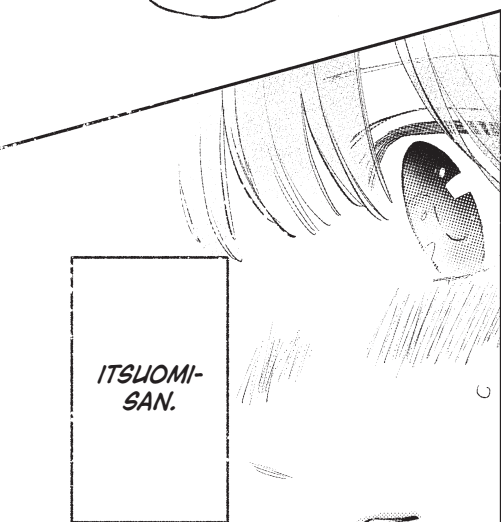
THAT IT'S
OKAY IF
IT'S ME.

HOW
FAR DOES
THAT
GO?

...

WHEN
YOU SAID
THAT
THING...

...EAR-
LIER.



ITSUOMI-
SAN.

It's okay if you do it,
Itsuomi-san.



*...BACK AFTER
WE FIRST
MET...*

*THOSE BIG
HANDS
THAT
GRABBED
MINE LIKE
IT WAS
NOTHING...*

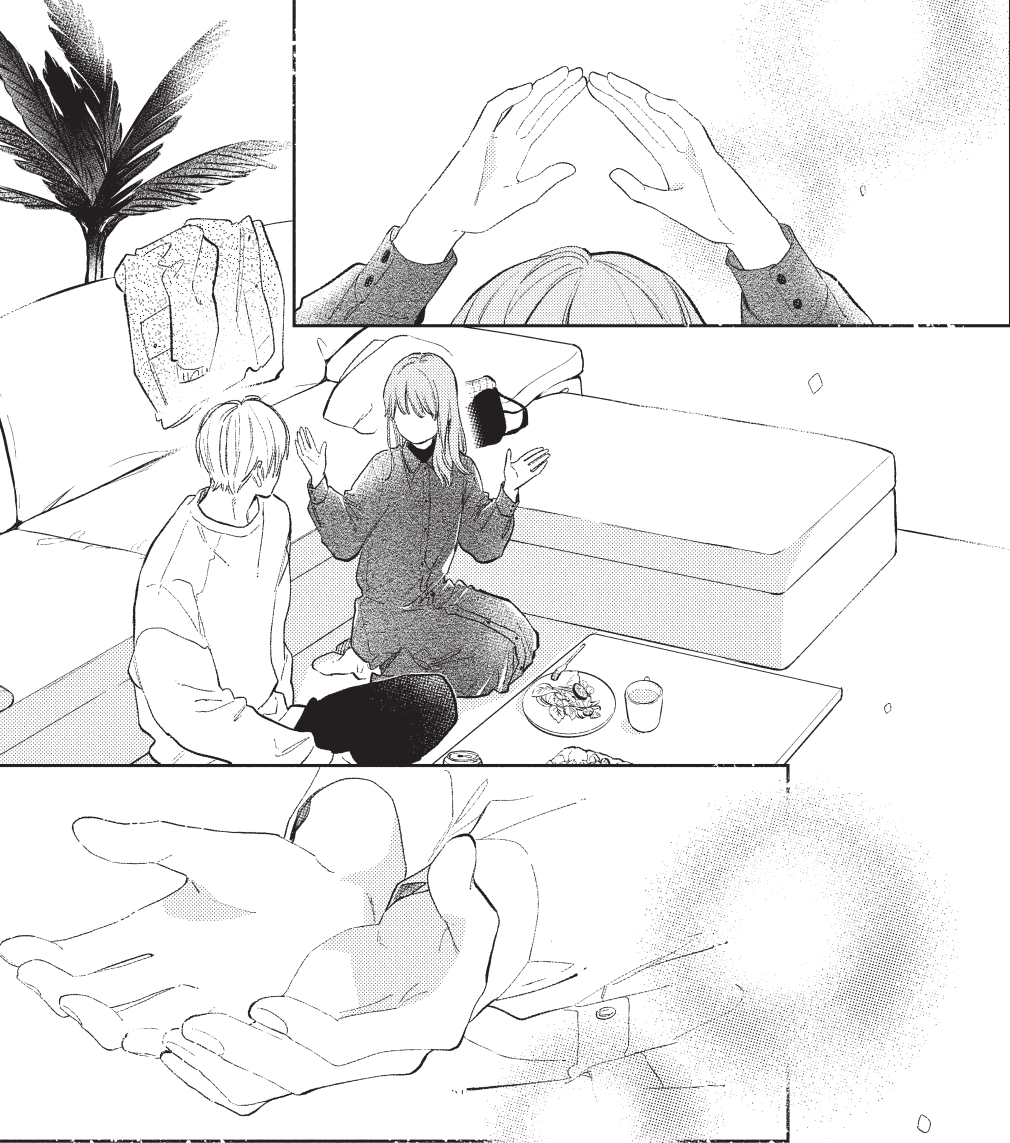


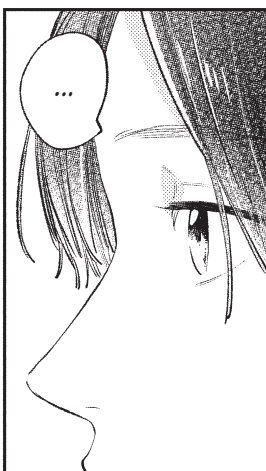
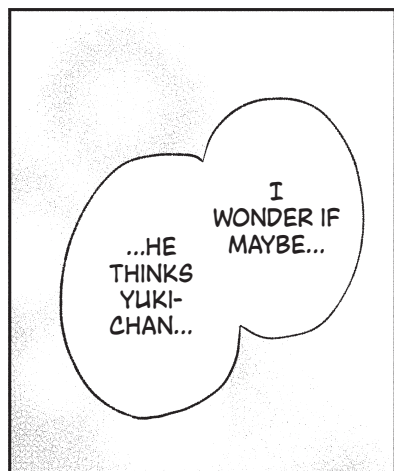
*"HOW
FAR DOES
THAT
GO?"*

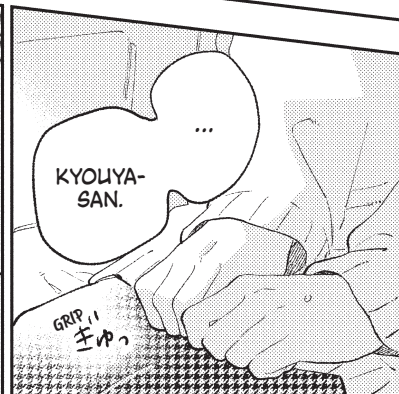
*...LEARNING
HOW TO
SPEAK.*

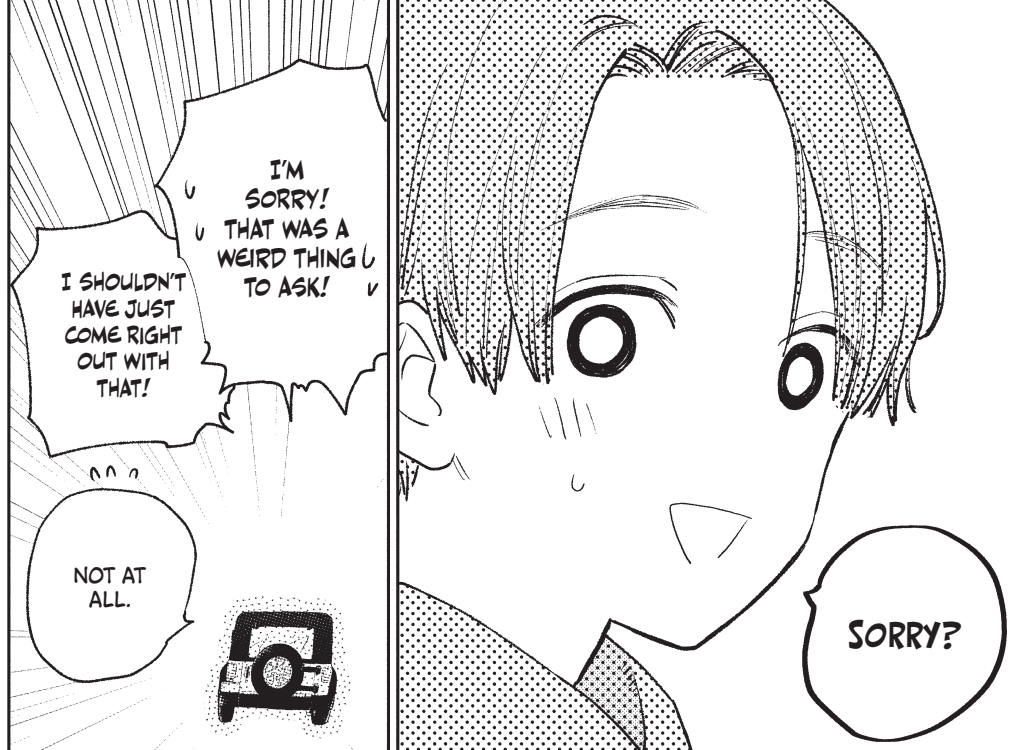
*THOSE
HANDS
ARE, LITTLE
BY LITTLE...*

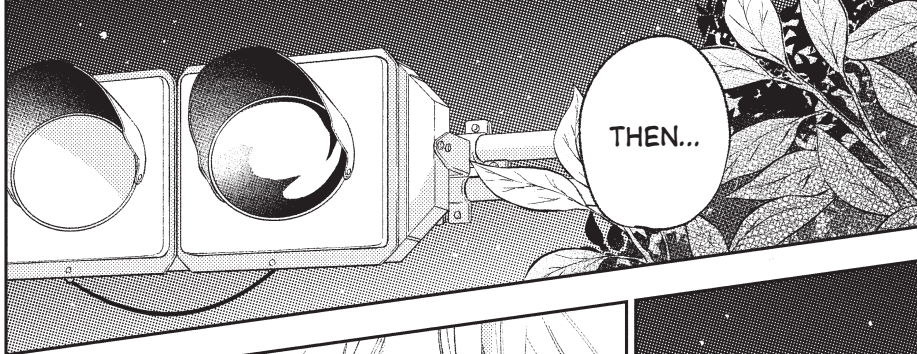
*YOU
NEED
TO
ASK?*



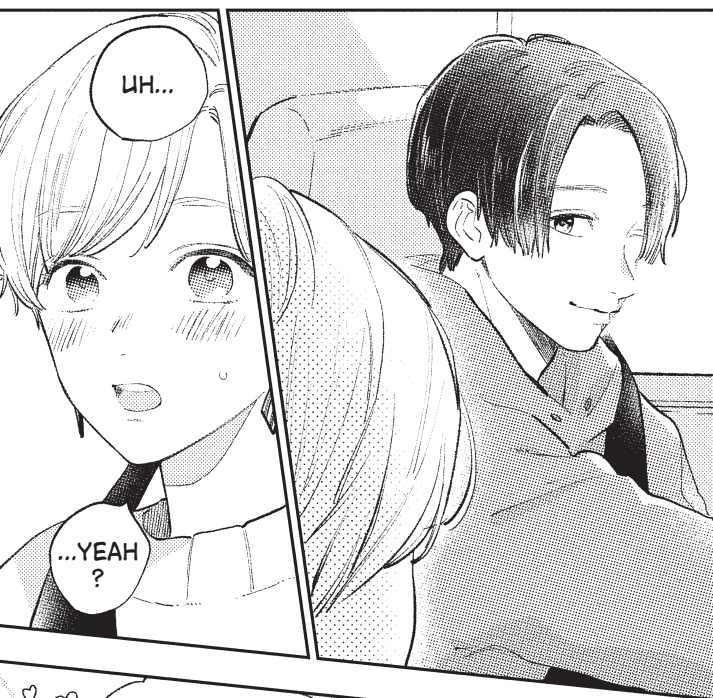
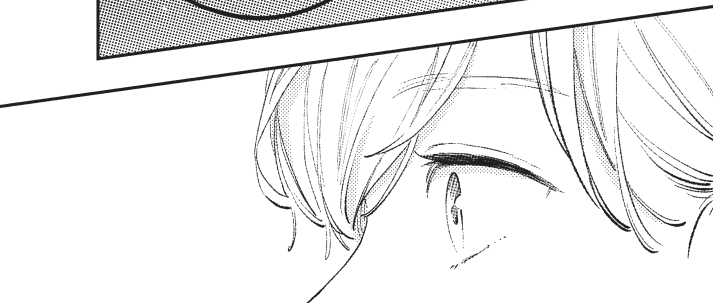








THEN...



UH...

...YEAH?
?

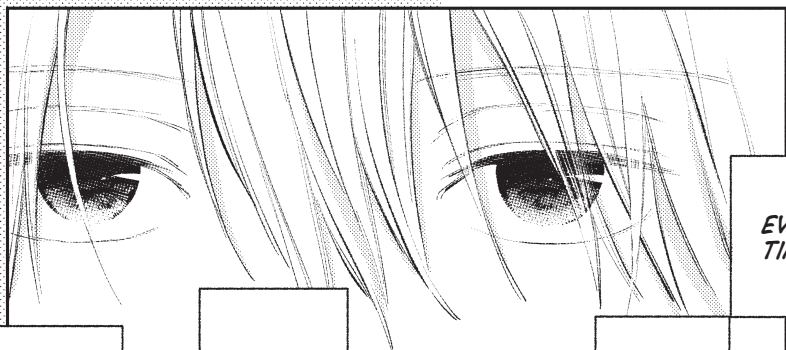
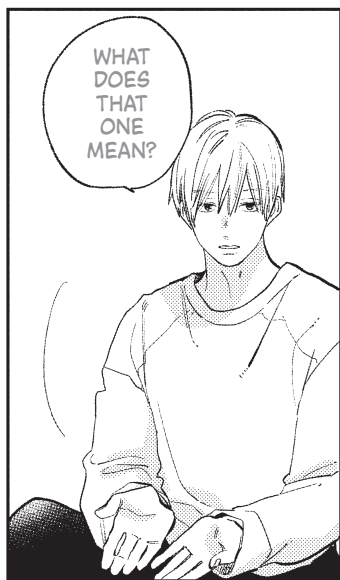


...YOU WANT
TO GO GET
SOMETHING
TO EAT?



I RECOMMEND
THIS VIETNAMESE
PLACE THAT JUST
OPENED UP IN MY
NEIGHBORHOOD!

THEN LET'S
LOOK FOR A
PLACE ON THE
WAY HOME.

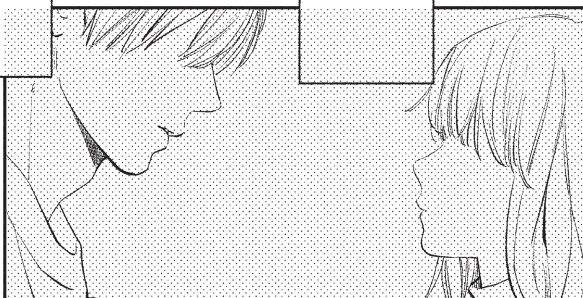


*EVERY
TIME...*

*...KEEP
STARING
INTO
MINE...*

*...THOSE
EYES...*

*...UNTIL
THEY
GET AN
ANSWER.*





...TO UNDER-
STAND
ME?

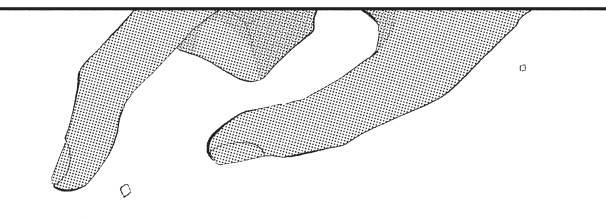


WHY
IS HE
TRYING
SO
HARD...



WHEN
I WRITE
ON HIS
PALM...

...WITH MY
FINGERTIP...



*...AND
SHOWING
IT TO HIM.*

*...IT FEELS
LIKE I'M
TAKING OUT
MY HEART...*

WAIT,
NO.

...“M”?

I WANT...

A black and white manga-style illustration. The top half of the page is a close-up of a young woman with long, straight hair and bangs. She has a serious, slightly sad expression. Her eyes are looking down and to the left. A speech bubble is positioned above her head. The bottom half of the page shows a wider scene. A young man with short hair is leaning forward, looking down at his hands. A young woman with long hair is standing in front of him, also looking down. They appear to be holding hands or something small between them. A speech bubble is on the left, and a text box is on the right.

*...HIM
TO SEE
ME...*

"E"...

*...AS
THE
GIRL
THAT
I AM.*

A SIGN^{OF}
AFFECTION

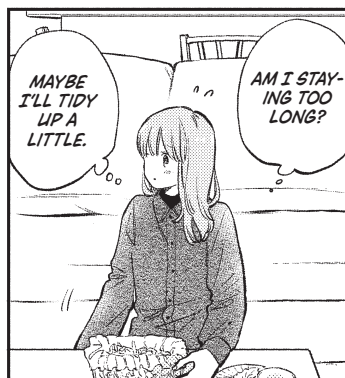
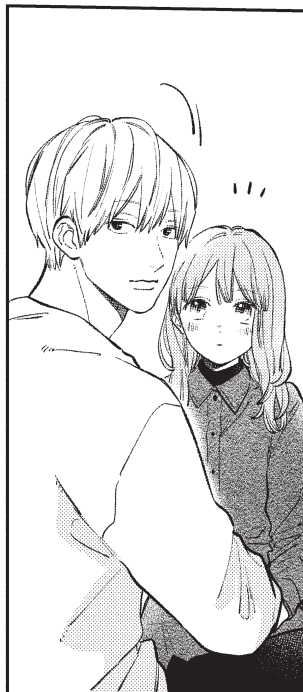
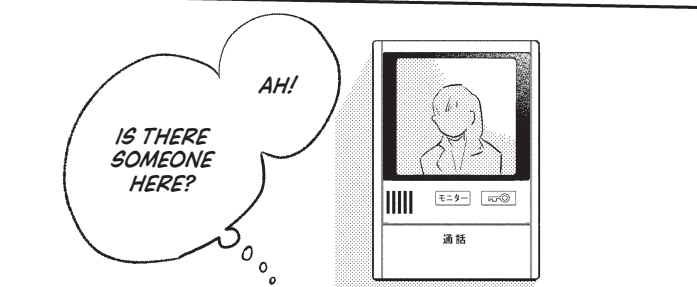
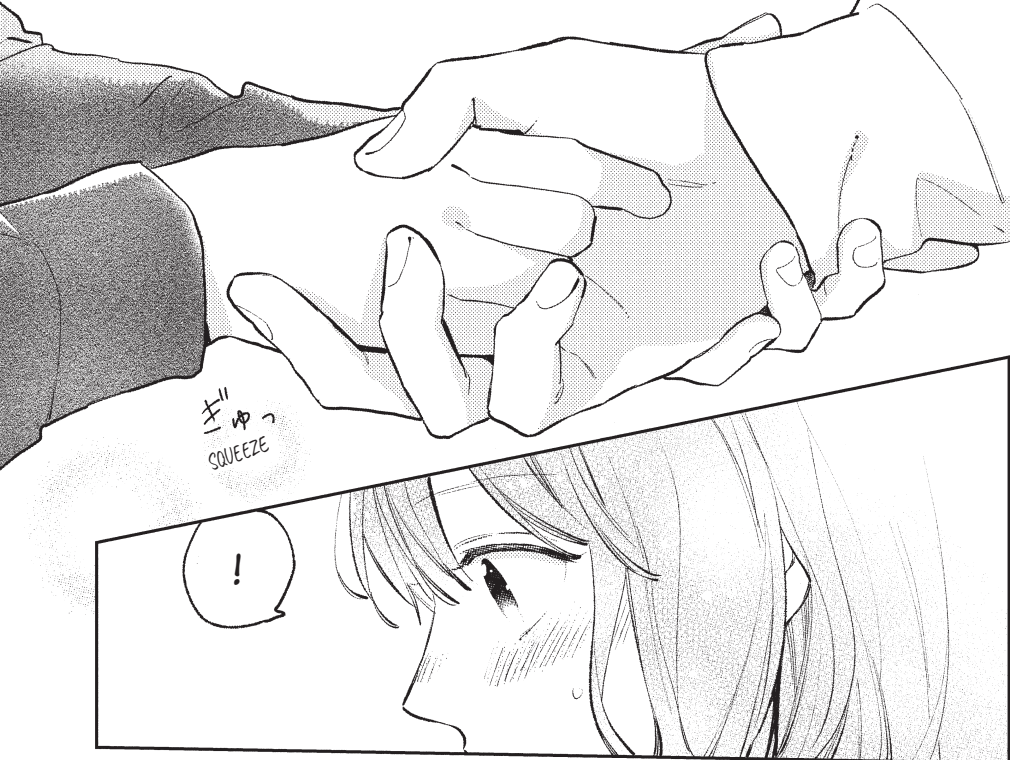
Sign.8

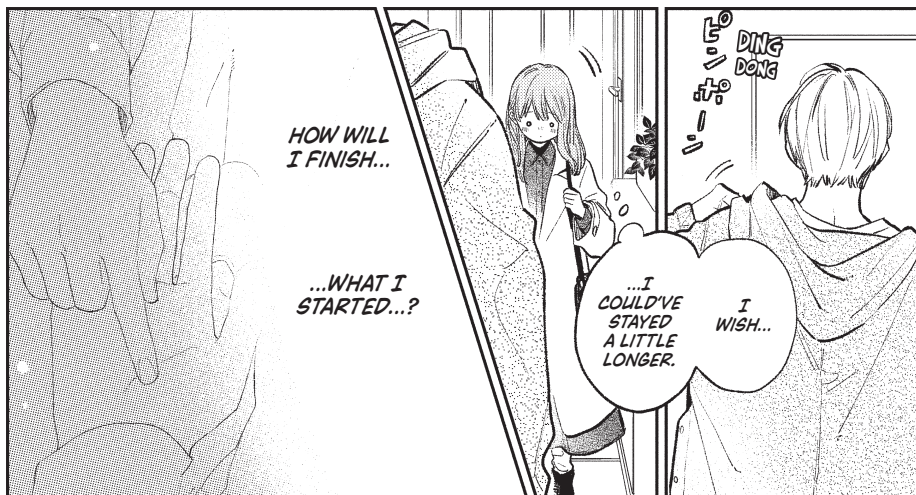
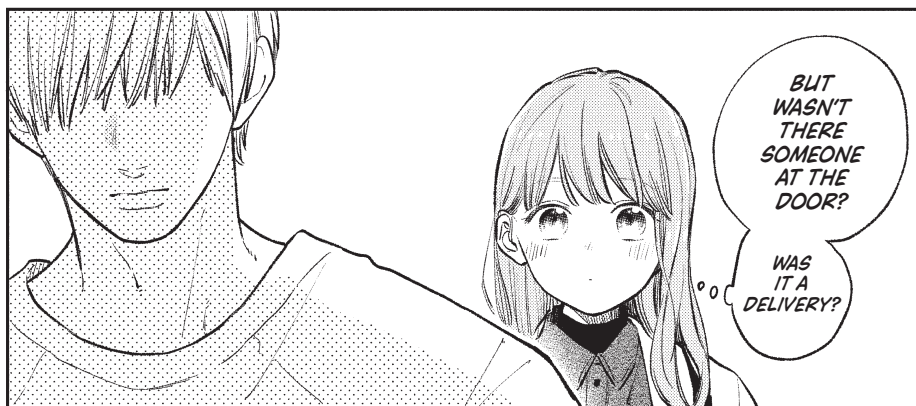
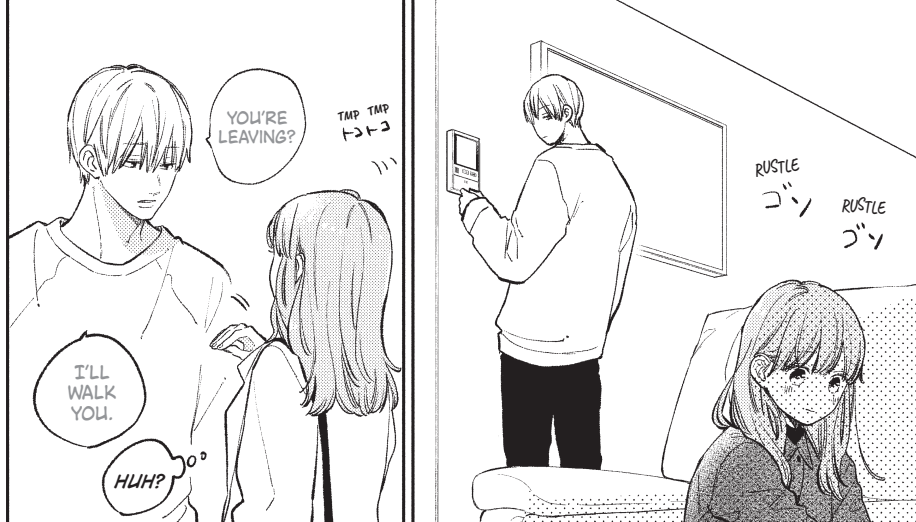
THE ANSWER

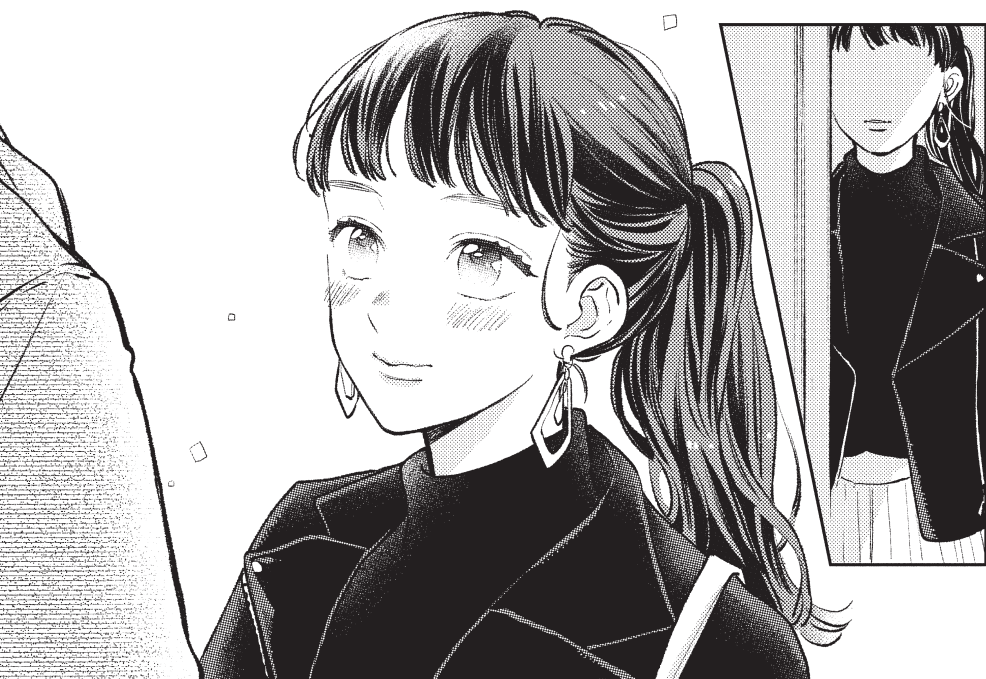
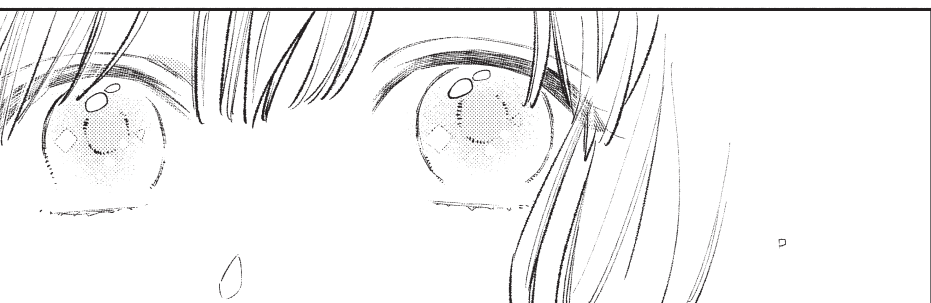
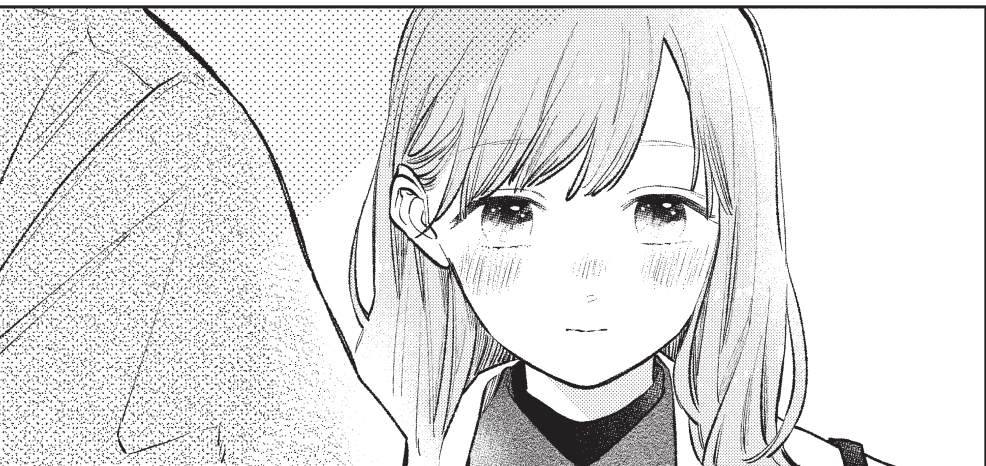


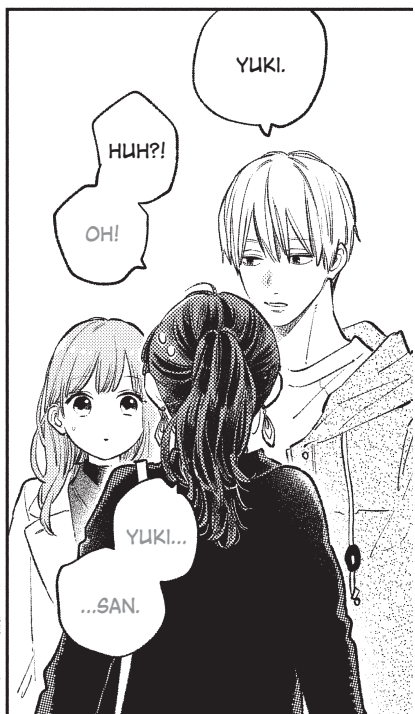
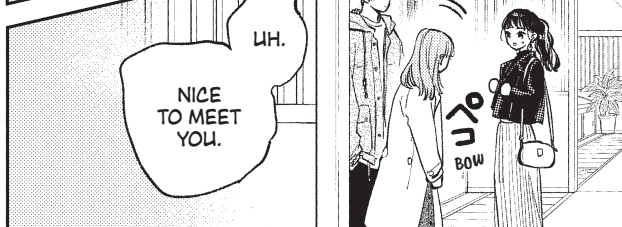
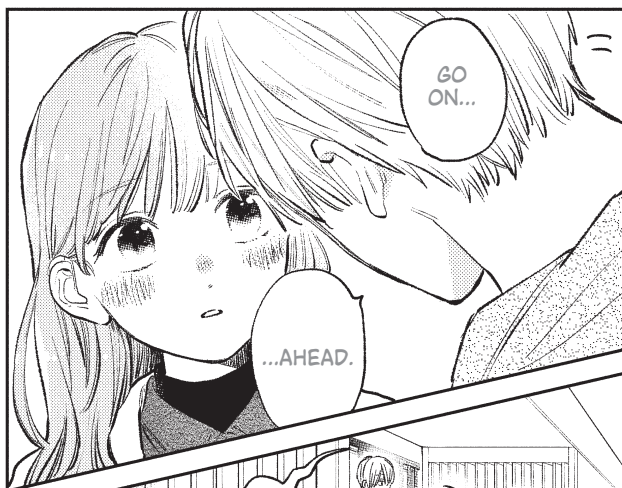
"E"...

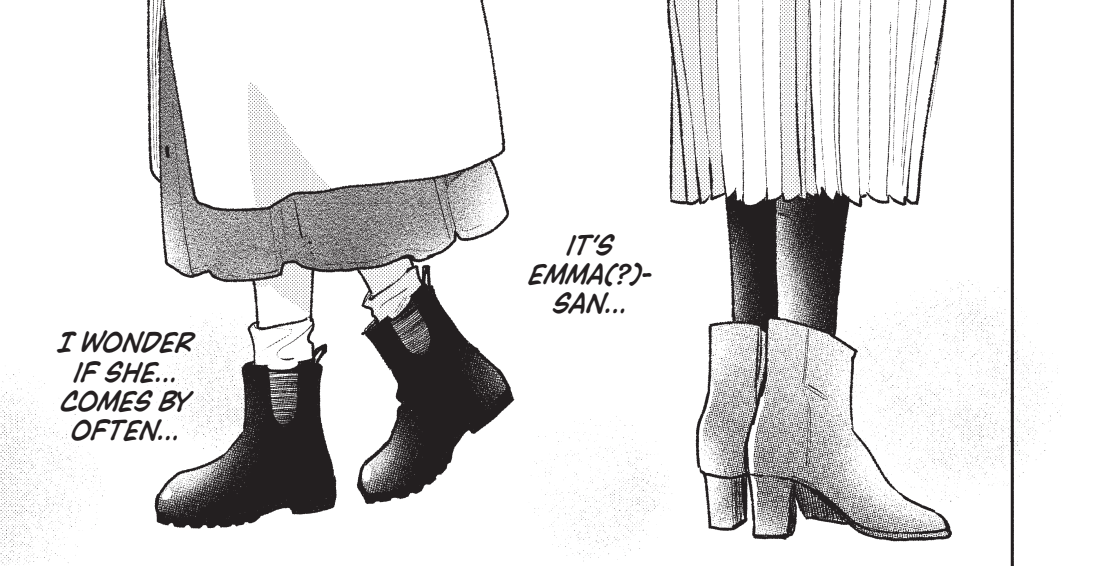






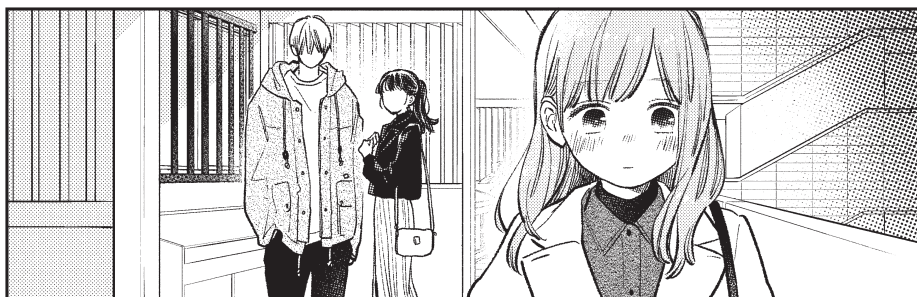






I WONDER
IF SHE...
COMES BY
OFTEN...

IT'S
EMMA(?)
-SAN...



THANKS FOR
LETTING ME
STAY OVER
THE OTHER
NIGHT.

UH...

WHAT A
SHOCK, SEEING
A GIRL LEAVE
ITSU-KUN'S
PLACE.

DID YOU
COME TO
RETURN
MY KEY?

OH.

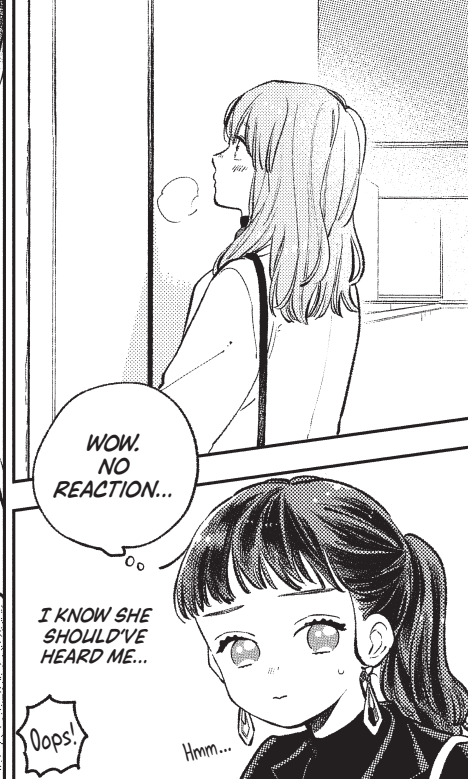
YEAH.



IF I KEEP
THIS UP,
I'LL GET
ITSU-
KUN'S
DEAD-EYE
LOOK
AGAIN...

I DIDN'T LET
YOU STAY
OVER.

!!
HE'S
ALREADY
DOING IT.



WOW.
NO
REACTION...

I KNOW SHE
SHOULD'VE
HEARD ME...

Dops!

Hmm...

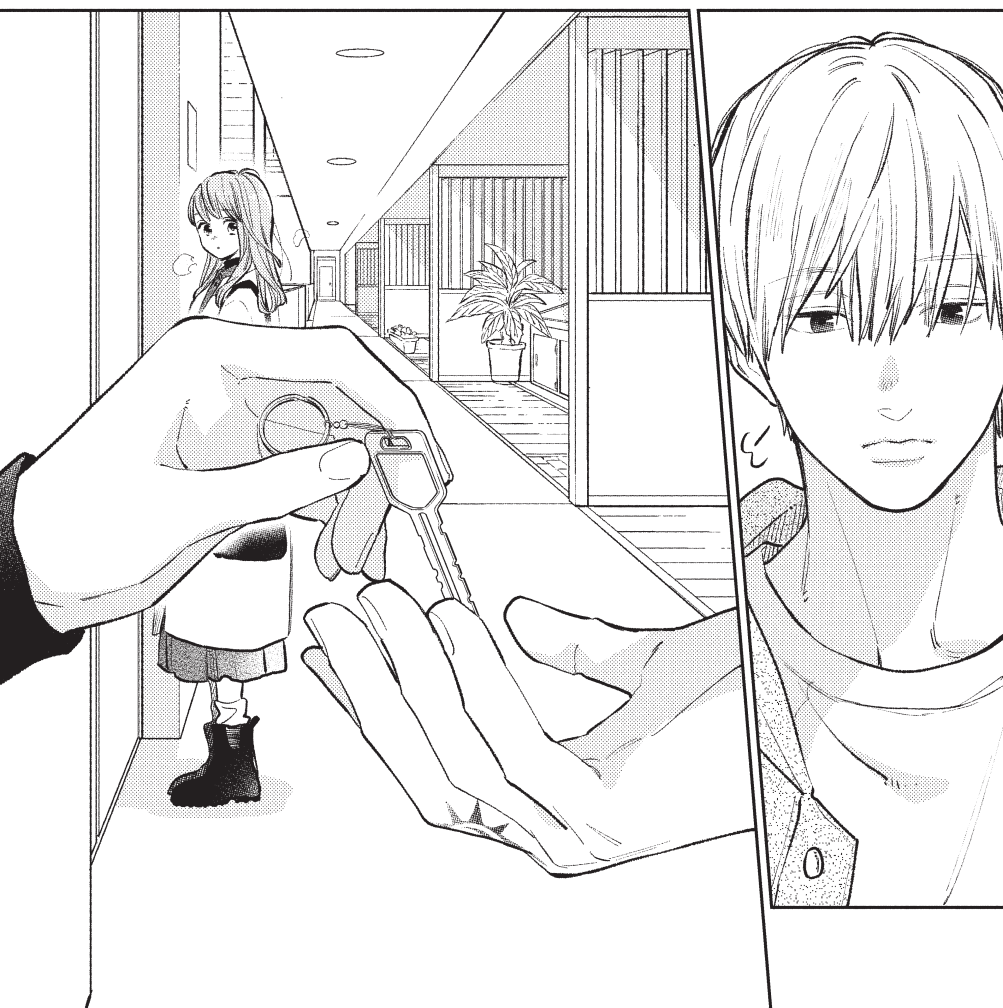
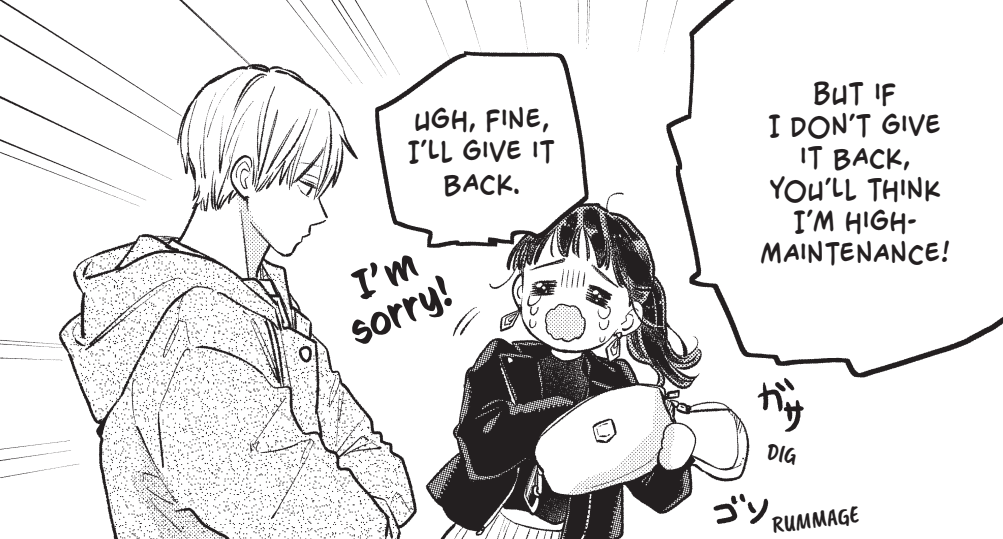


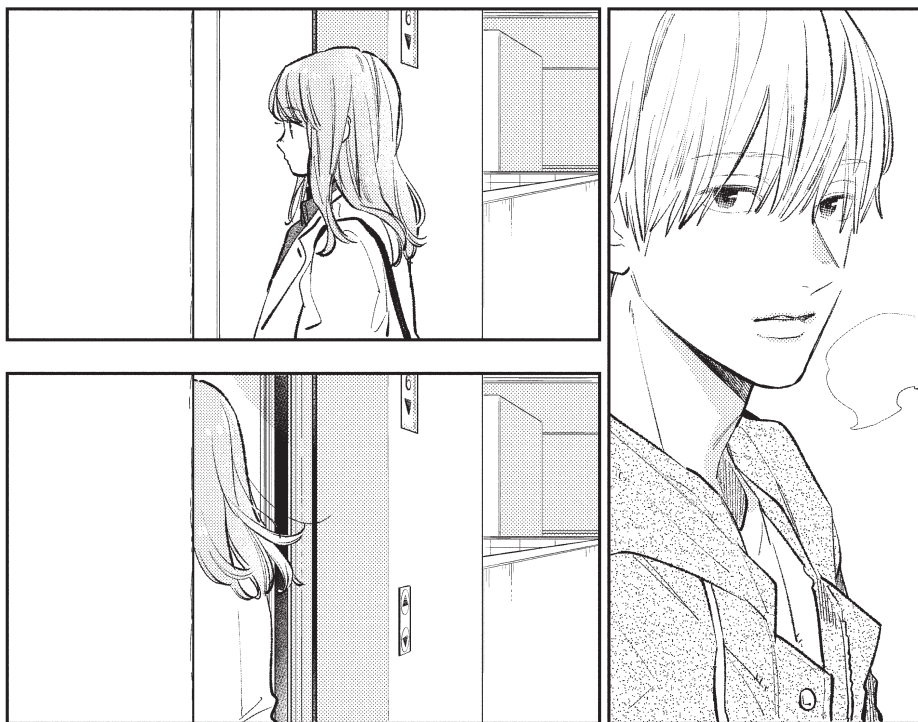
DO I
HAVE TO
GIVE IT
BACK?



COME ON,
ARE YOU
STILL MAD
ABOUT
THE OTHER
NIGHT?

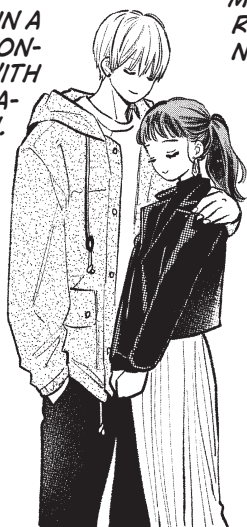
I'M
NOT
MAD.





...HE'S IN A
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
EMMA-
SAN.

MAYBE
RIGHT
NOW...



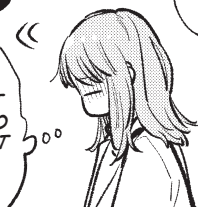
WHAT'S
THE
STORY
HERE?



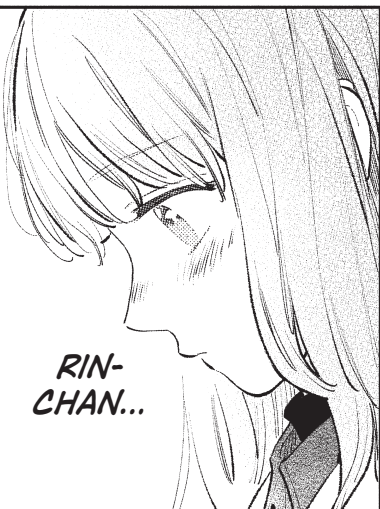
モヤ...
GLOOM

MAYBE
I'M OVER-
THINKING
IT.

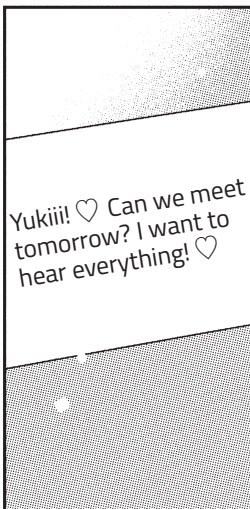
I DON'T
WANT TO
THINK AT
ALL!



RIN-
CHAN...



Yukiii! ♡ Can we meet
tomorrow? I want to
hear everything! ♡



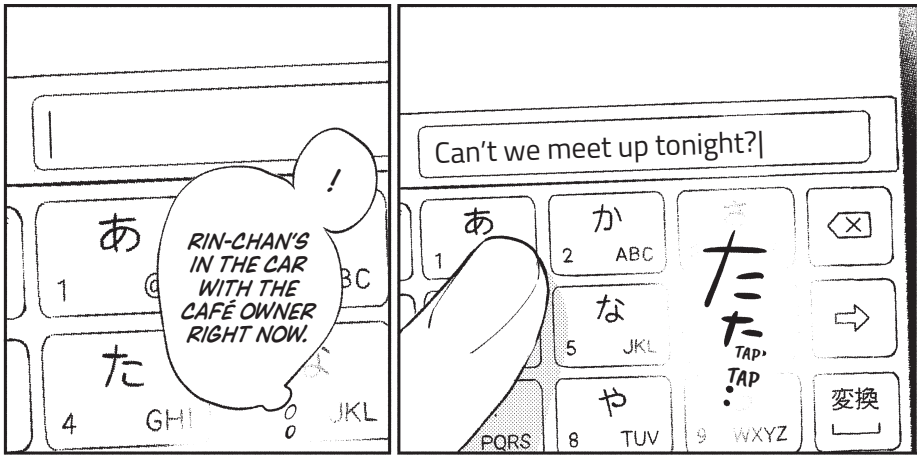
MAYBE I'D
BETTER
ASK HIM.

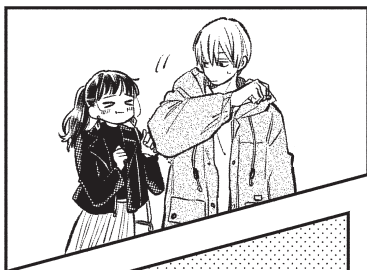
HOW CAN
HE WALK
ME HOME IF
EMMA-SAN'S
HERE?

BUZZ

ビーン...
JUMP



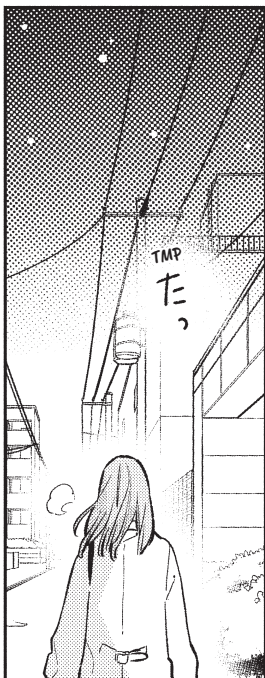




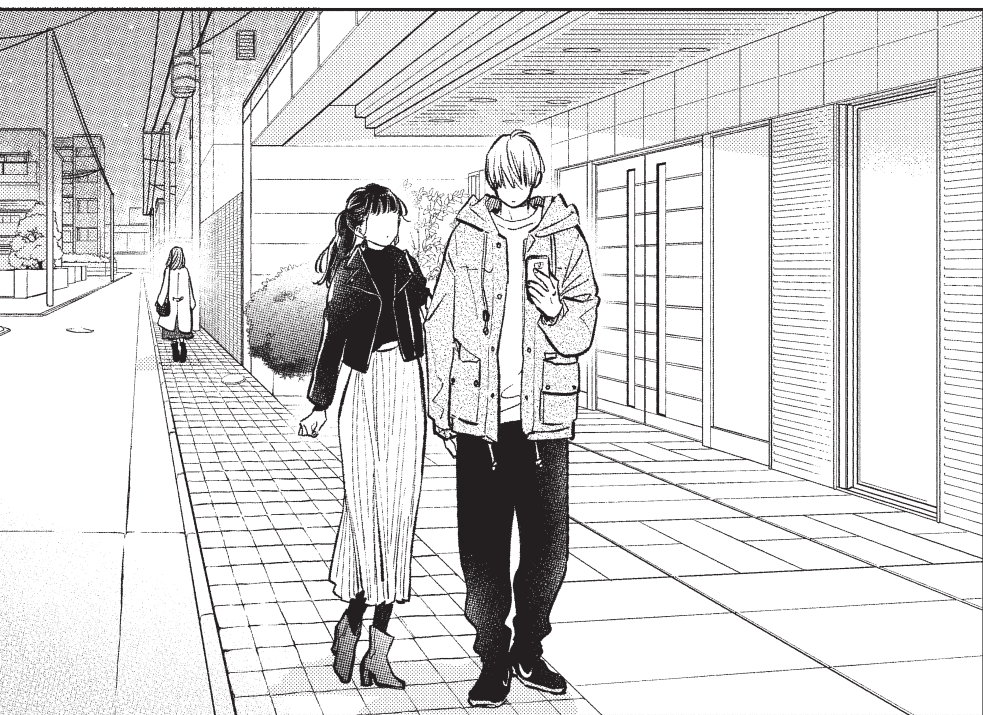
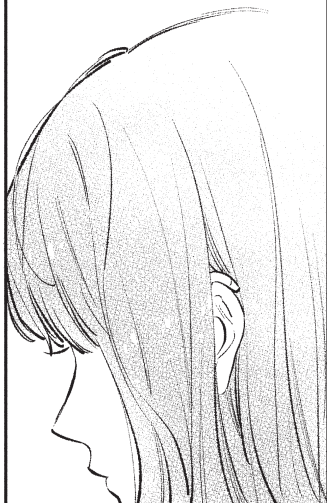
Yuki

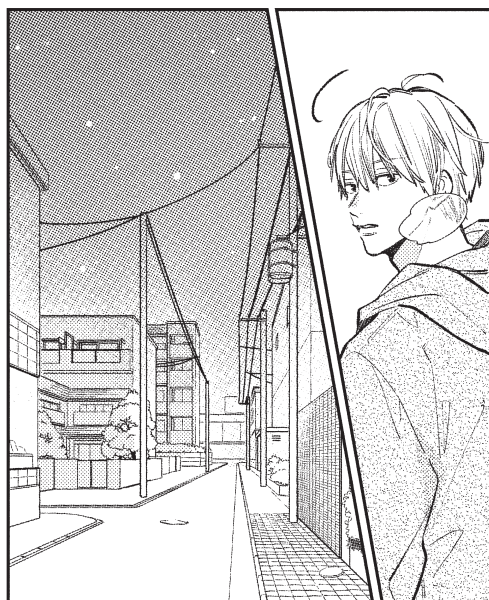
I'll walk home alone.

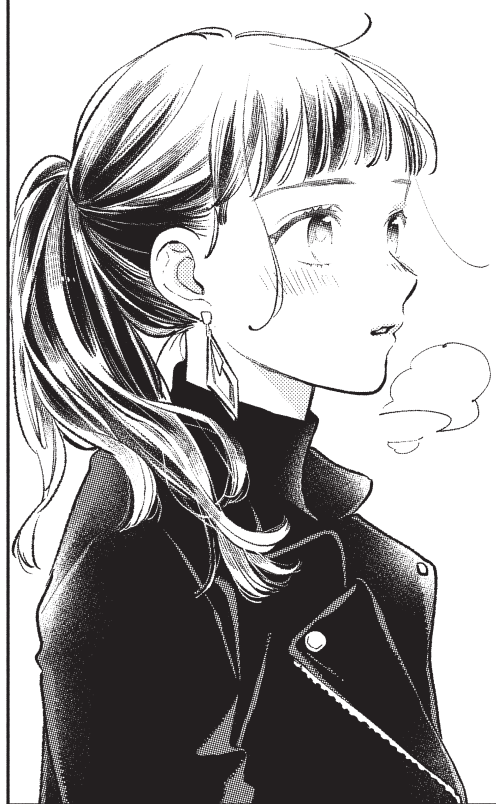
てん／＼
PING

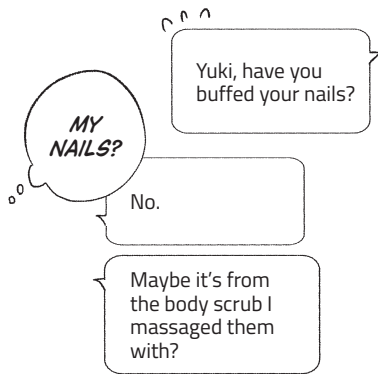


*SHE WAS...
HANGING
ONTO HIM.*



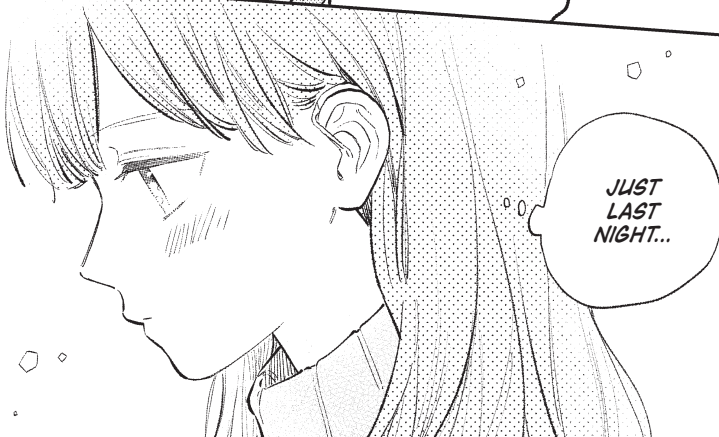
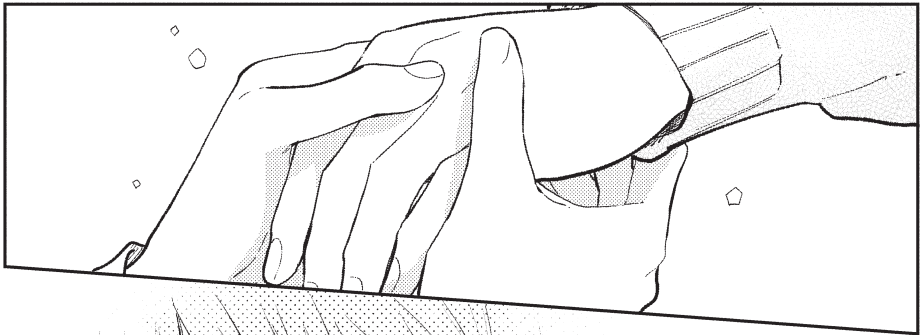
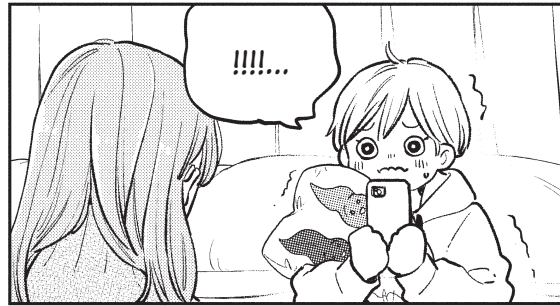
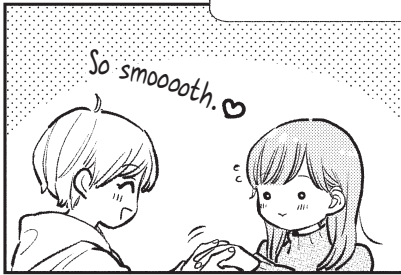


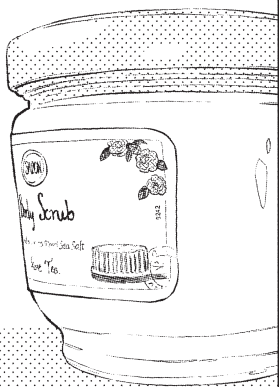




Maybe it's from the body scrub I massaged them with?

Where'd you get it?
I've gotta know! ♡





I WONDER
IF THEY'LL
EVER TOUCH
AGAIN.

...WERE
HOLDING
MINE.

...BIG
HANDS...

COME ON, YUKI,
YOU'RE BEING
RIDICULOUS.

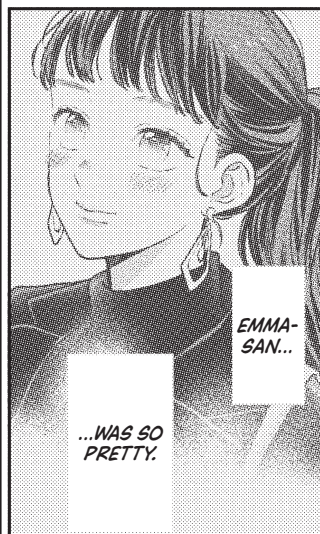


ITSUOMI-
SAN'S...



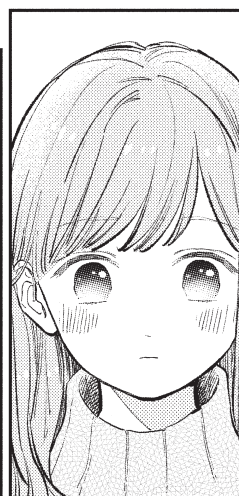
I'VE BEEN
MEANING TO
TELL YOU
SOMETHING.

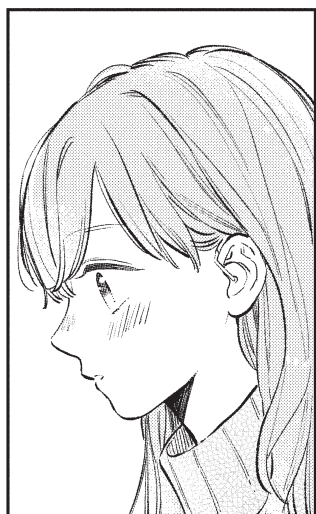
OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT!



EMMA-
SAN...

...WAS SO
PRETTY.





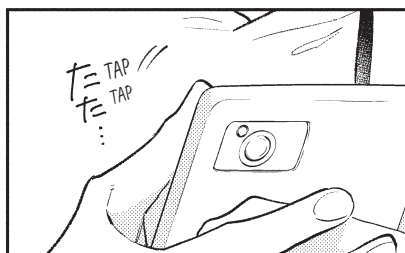
He really takes his time talking with you.

I can tell he's trying to make it easier to have a conversation.

Plus...

SHOOP
ニムカ

ニムカ
SHOOP



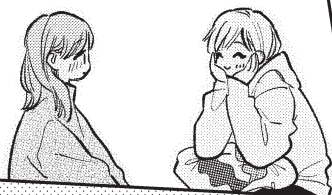
No! 🐱
And there's two other things

SHOOP
ニムカ



The voice he uses
with you is ALWAYS
gentle!!

WHEN
I'M...



...WITH
ITSUOMI-SAN,
I LET MYSELF
RELAX.

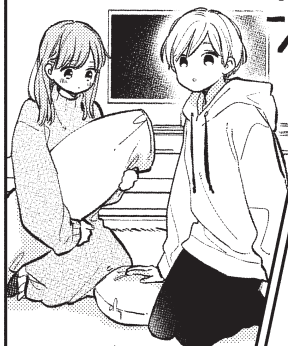
LIKE SNOW
FALLING
FREELY...

...OUT
OF A BIG,
OPEN SKY.



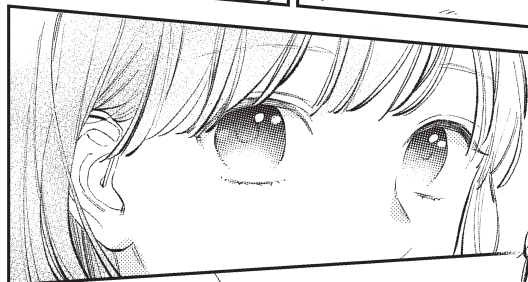
KLATCH
カキ

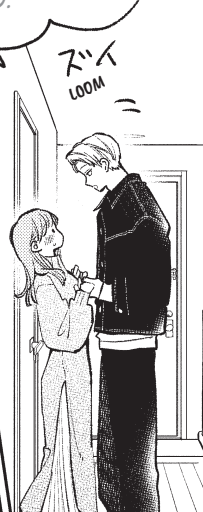
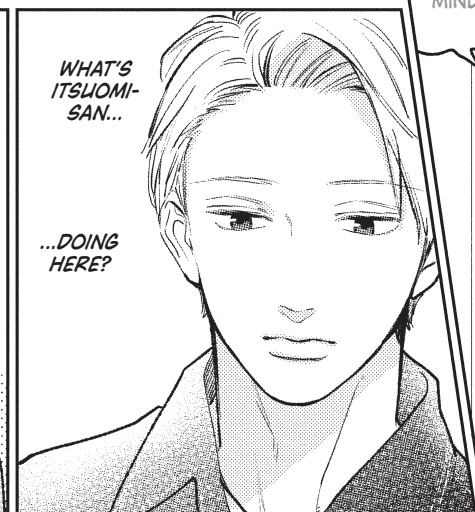
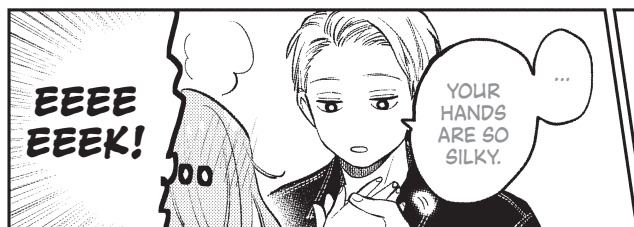
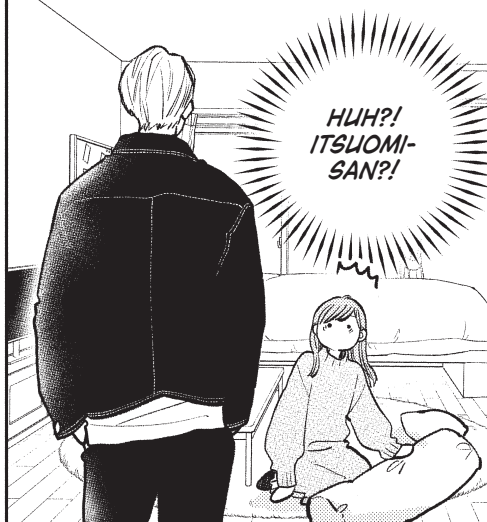
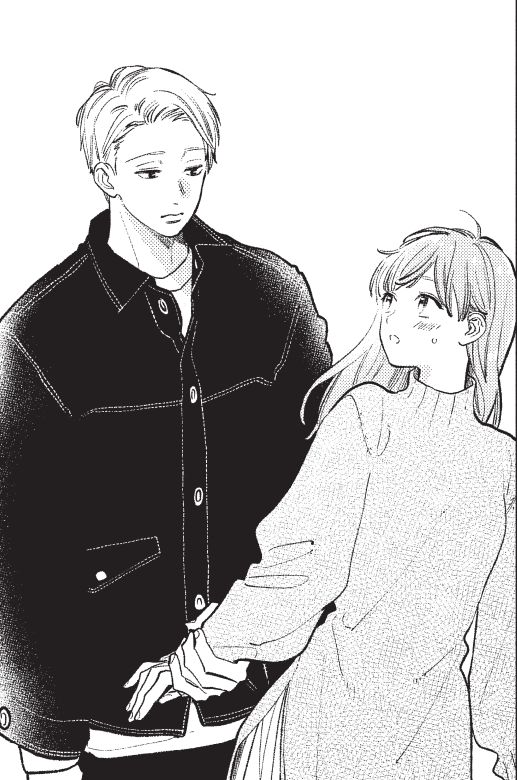
DING DONG
ピンポン

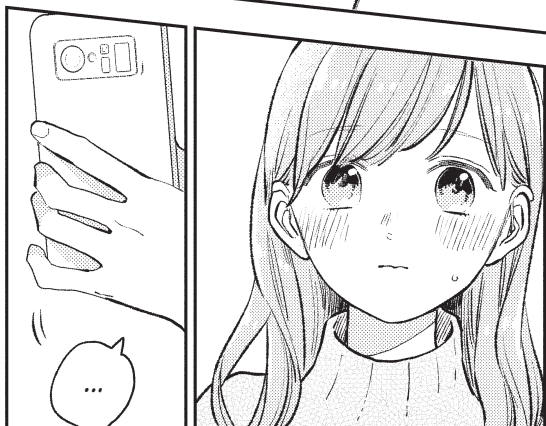
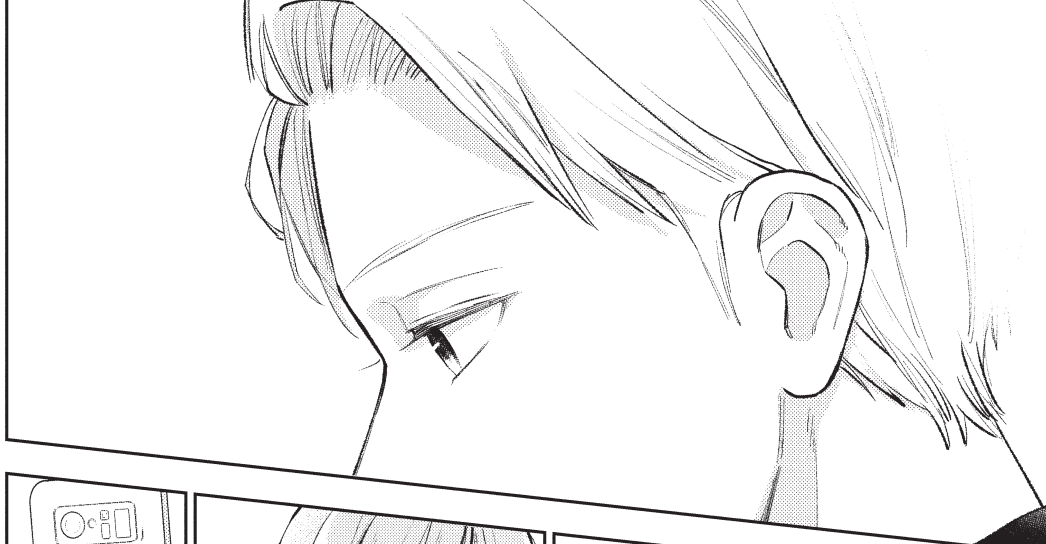


BUT I WONDER...

...HOW BEING AROUND ME FEELS FOR ITSUOMI-SAN.

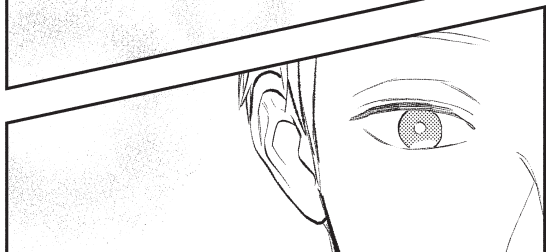


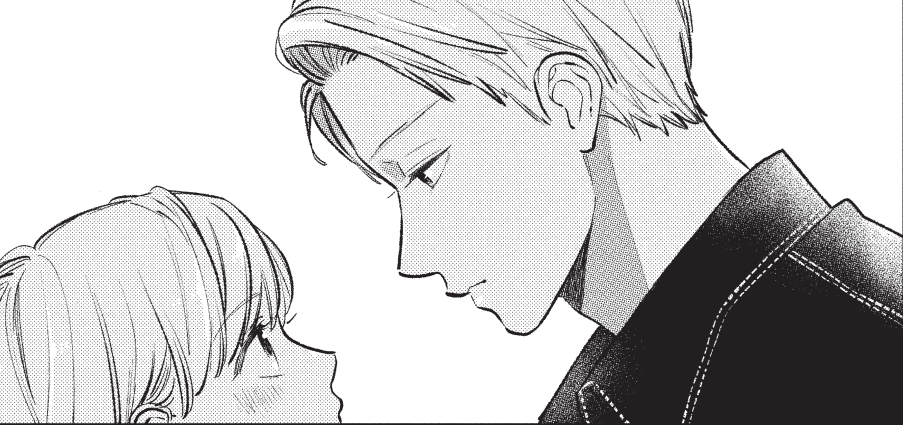




First, is it okay if I
ask you a question?

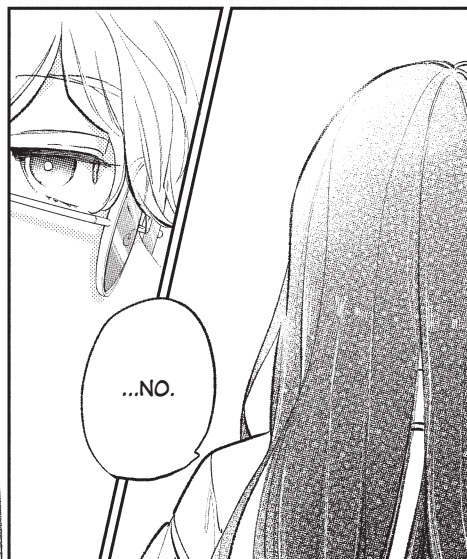
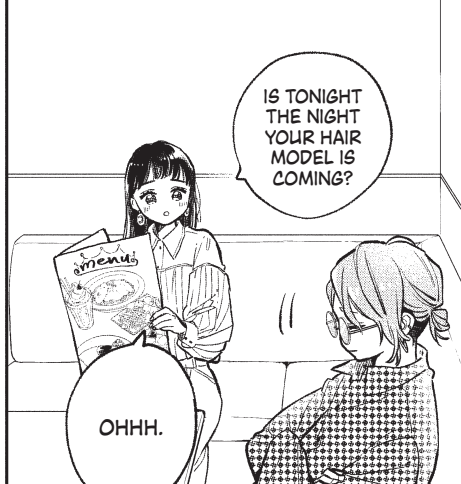
Why is it you want to learn
sign language, Itsuomi-san?

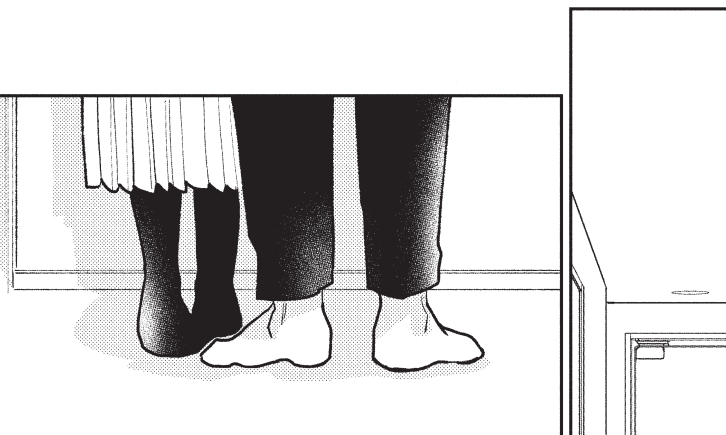




BUILDING: KARAOKE KARA









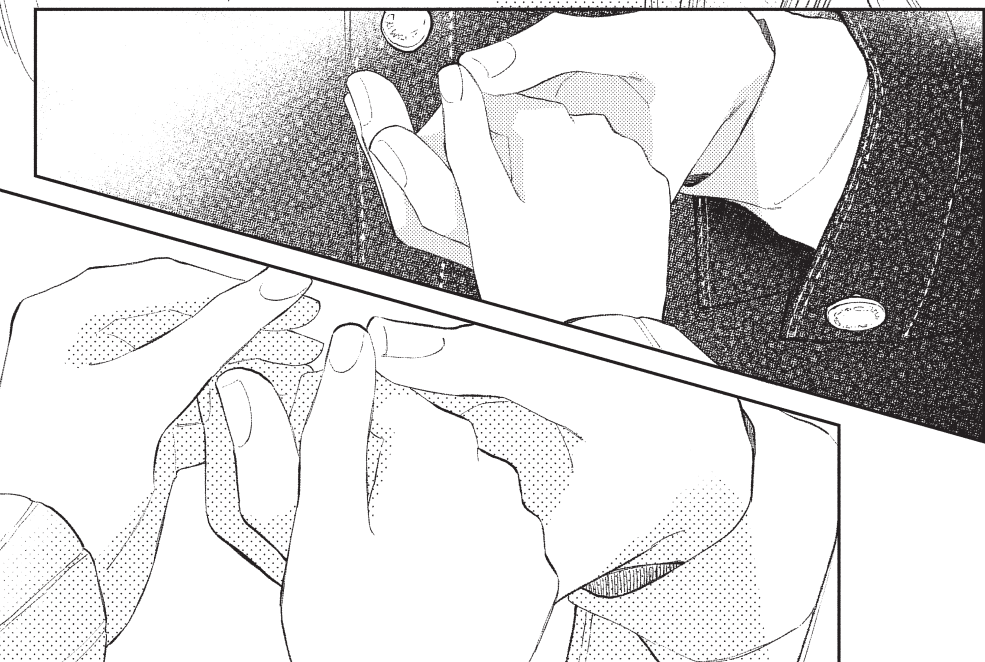
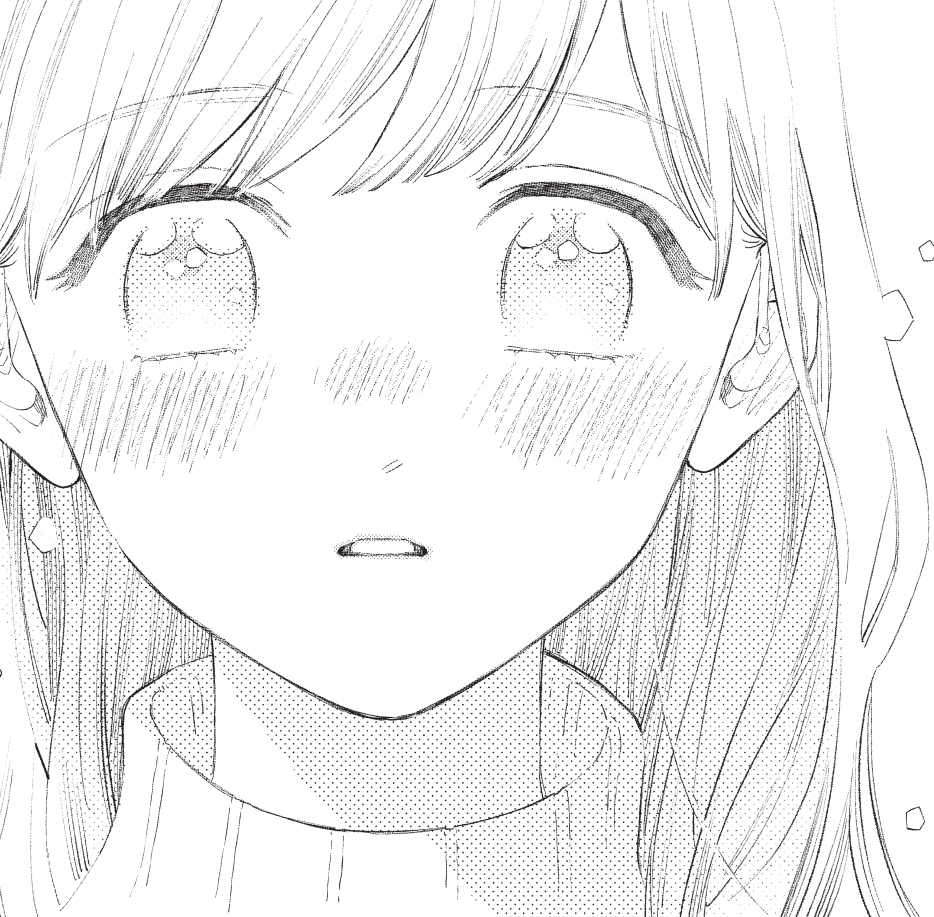
BECAUSE,
YUKI...

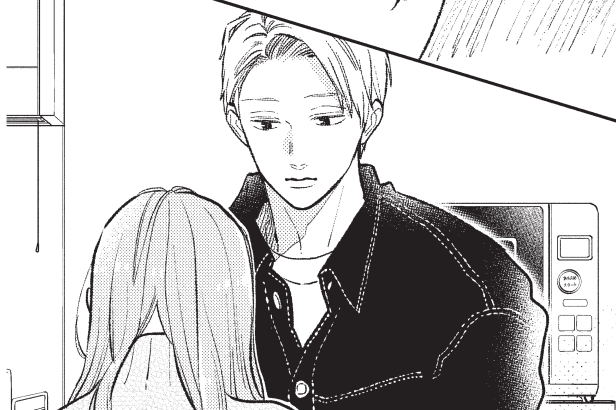
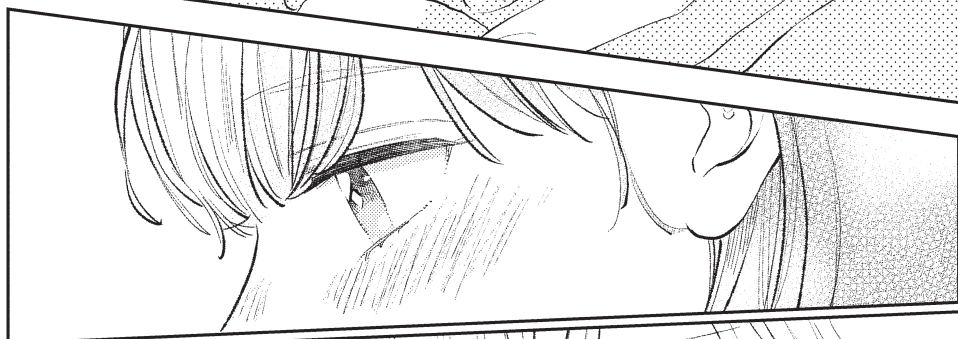


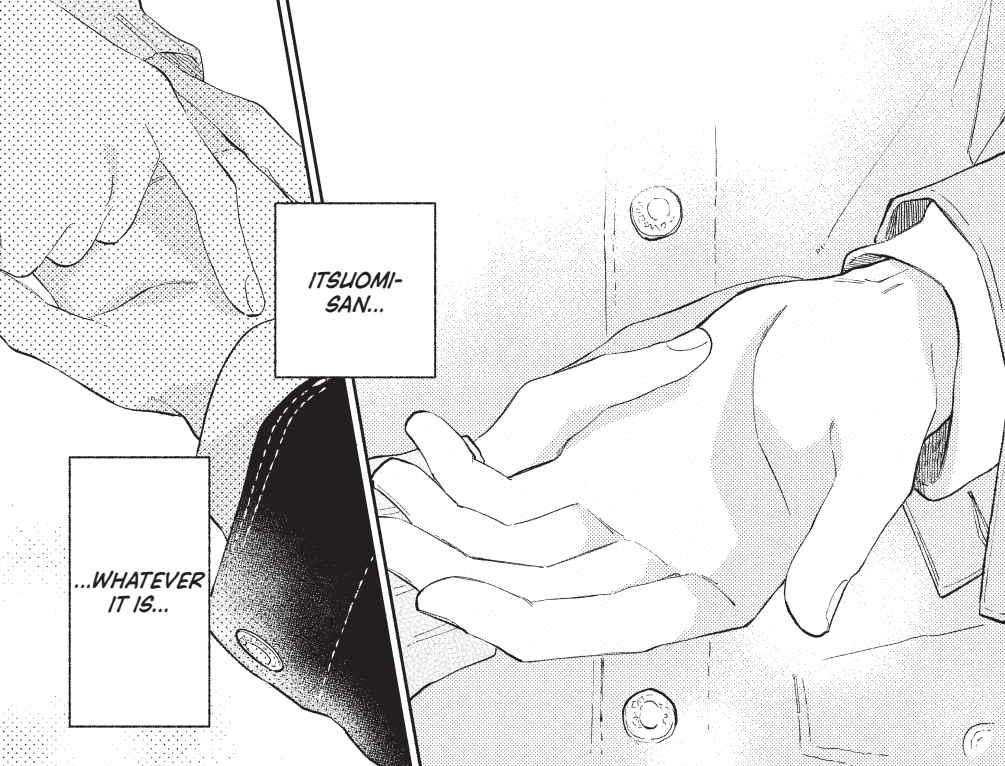
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
WHY?



...I WANT
TO TALK TO
YOU.

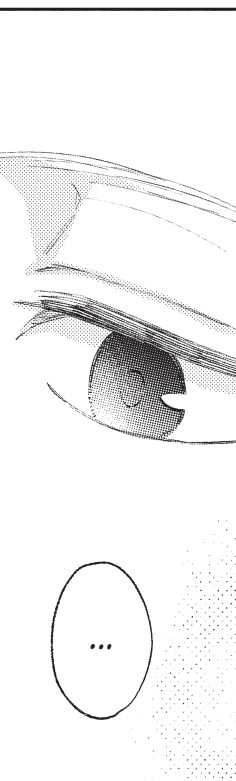






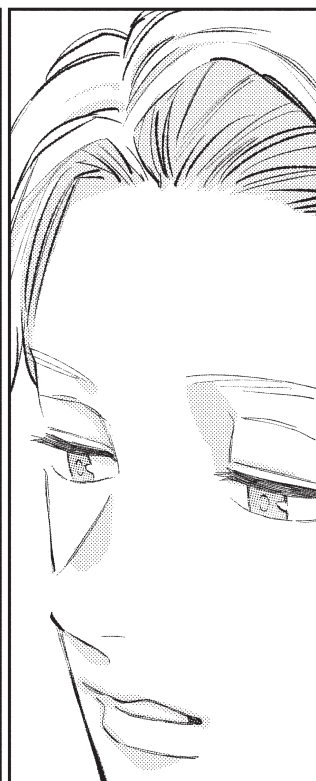
ITSUOMI-
SAN...

...WHATEVER
IT IS...



"E"...

...THAT
I AM
TO YOU
NOW...

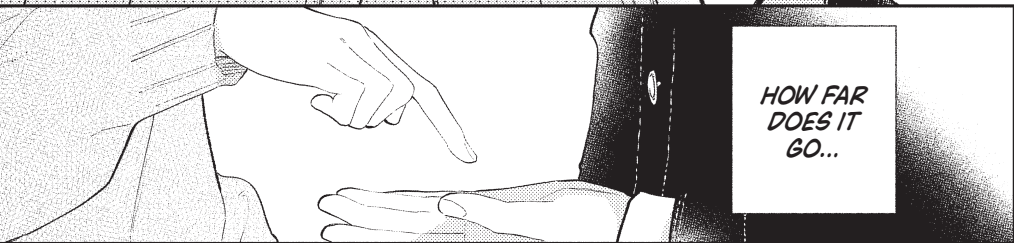
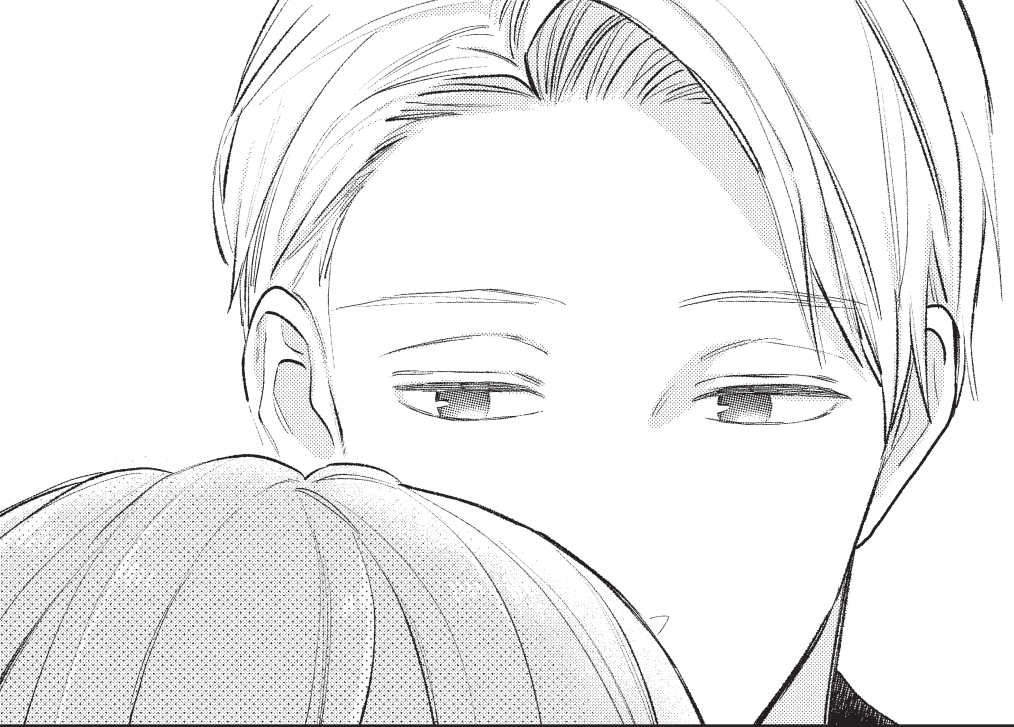


I HOPE
YOU'LL LET
ME BE THE
FREELY
FALLING
SNOW...

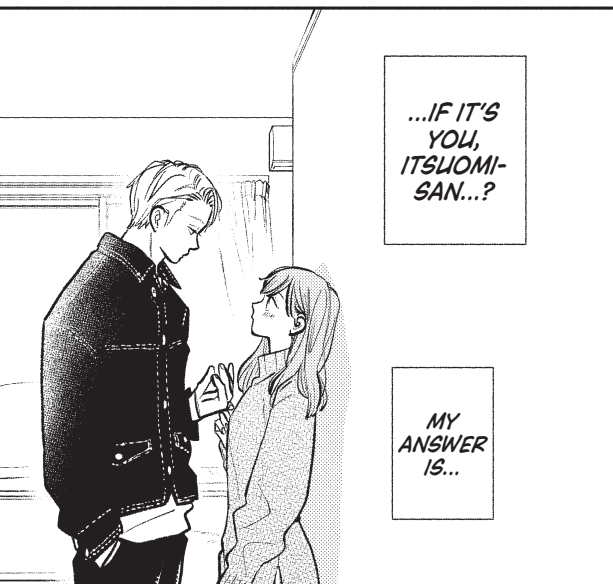
AND
YOU...

...CAN BE
THE BIG,
OPEN
SKY.



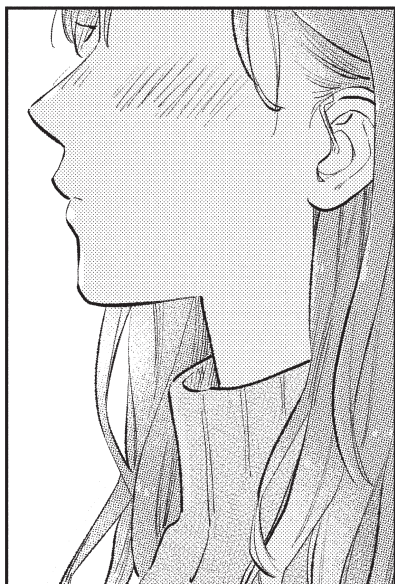


HOW FAR
DOES IT
GO...



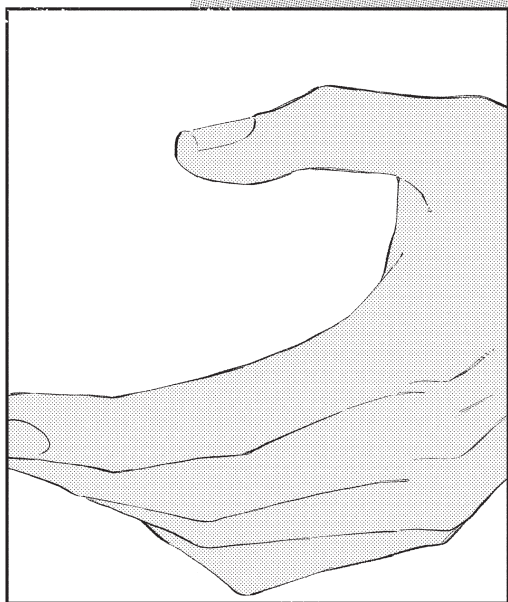
...IF IT'S
YOU,
ITSUOMI-
SAN...?

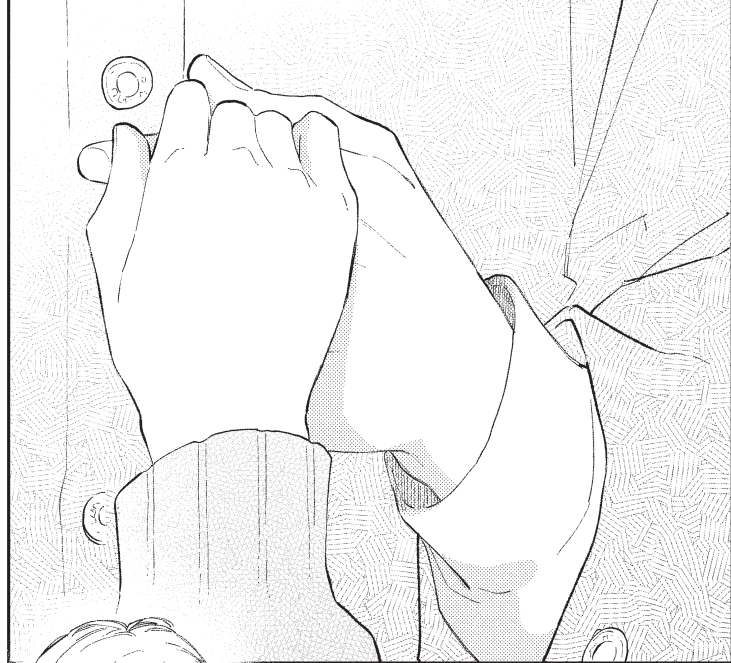
MY
ANSWER
IS...





"EVERYTHING."







TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

Afterword

Thank you very much for reading Volume 2. We were also so happy to receive everyone's thoughts on Volume 1 and the chapters in Dessert Magazine, whether you sent them online via social media or in the mail. ♪ What I'm about to write next is a spoiler, so please don't read it until after you've finished Volume 2:

The word for "everything" in Japanese Sign Language can look like you're making a small circle. So when Yuki made that big circle to Itsuomi for "everything," it was supposed to show her emotional, youthful heart. Like she was saying, "absolutely everything." ☺ Well, I hope to see you again in Volume 3.

Suu Morishita

Special Thanks

Editor: Shiigeru-san,
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Ichiki-san

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department

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Background materials
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Osu-sama

Assistant: Nao Hamaguchi-chan

Background help: Saya Aoi-san

Everyone involved with the publishing

And all our readers! ♪

TRANSLATION NOTES

Swept off my feet, page 8

In Japanese, Itsuomi says “don’t get hit” (by a car). But the verb he uses, *hikareru*, has a homophone that means “to be attracted to, fascinated by, or fall in love with someone.” So, at first, Yuki thinks he’s telling her, “Don’t go falling in love with me.”



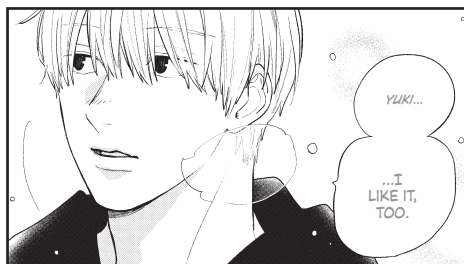
Yukinko, page 15

A *yukinko* (literally “snow child”) is a *yokai* (traditional Japanese ghost), always seen with a vicious *yuki-onna* (“snow woman”), who uses it to lure in victims. The suffix “-ko” (or “child”) is a common one in Japanese women’s names, which might be why Itsuomi thought Yukinko would be a cute nickname for Yuki. Maybe he reconsidered when he recalled that *yukinko* are supposed to be bait in a terrifying spectral trap, or perhaps he remembered the wacky face of manga artist Shigeru Mizuki’s take on a

yukinko in his popular manga *Gegege no Kitaro*. Neither would be especially flattering...

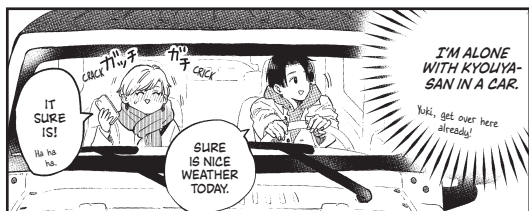
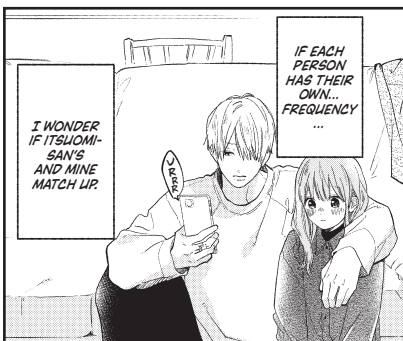
Yuki... I like it, too, page 15

Remember, *yuki* means snow, so in this panel, Itsuomi is literally saying, “I like *yuki*, too,” which explains Yuki’s reaction.



Voices & Frequencies, page 45

Literally, the title of this chapter means “voices and wavelengths.” At the end, Yuki talks about being on the “same wavelength” with Itsuomi. Unfortunately, this English phrase has lost its romantic poetry through overuse, so we settled on “frequency,” which retains the connection to sound waves without making Yuki’s love sound like a business meeting.



Alone with Kyouya-san in a car, page 52

More outings in Japan take place by train than by car. (Historically, parts of the country had

rail connections before they had intercity roads.) This may help explain why it’s so unusual and awkward for Rin to be alone in a car with the café owner.

Ooh, ladies first, page 56

Japan doesn’t have the chivalrous tradition of men allowing women to go ahead of them. On the contrary, during the Edo Period and into much of the 20th century, women were expected to follow behind their husbands. Rin uses the English phrase “ladies first,” alluding to the practice’s association with foreigners, and perhaps it is a habit Itsuomi picked up overseas.

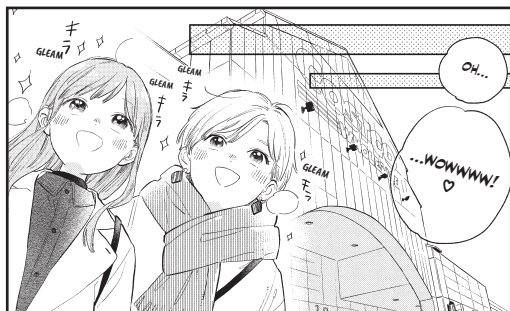


Furikake, page 56

The word *furikake* covers any number of mixtures of dried ingredients that can be sprinkled over rice to season it. Common ingredients include sesame seeds, chopped seaweed, and dried bonito shavings.



Costco, page 57

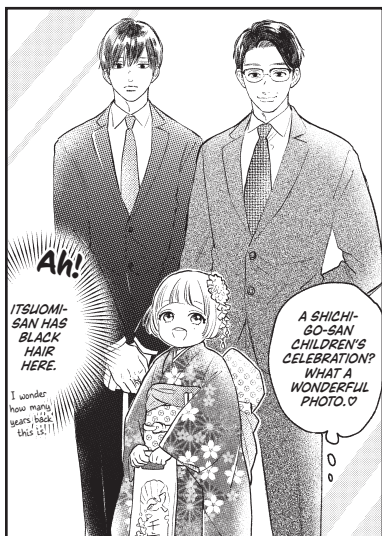


There are only 26 Japanese Costco locations. (The first one opened in 1999.) This style of big warehouse store is still fairly unusual in Japan, so it's understandable that Rin and Yuki would be a bit dazzled.

I want to lose myself, page 82

In Japanese, Yuki says "*amaete-shimaitakunaru*," a form of the verb *amaeru*, which has many meanings. Derived from the word for "sweetness," it can mean to be spoiled, to be cared for, to be embraced, to be relaxed, to be reliant, or even to impose on someone. It's translated in several different ways in this volume depending on the context. (For example, it's also the word Itsuomi uses on page 89 for "getting more comfortable.") Here, Yuki says she has developed a desire for Itsuomi to be sweet to her, and the verb takes a form (-*shimau*) that implies a final, even reckless or irreversible, state, so "I want to lose myself" seemed appropriate.





Shichi-Go-San, page 93

The Shichi-Go-San (literally, “seven-five-three”) is a ceremony where Japanese children dress up in formal wear, receive *chitose ame* (“thousand-year candy”), and have their photos taken upon their third and seventh birthdays for girls, and fifth birthdays for boys. Itsuomi’s sister can be seen holding the *chitose ame* in a bag in the photograph on this page.

Denshu Daiginjo, page 149

Denshu Daiginjo is a select, regional sake from Aomori made from rice grown at a specific farm, prepared by hand. Like most *daiginjo* (a category of sake where at least half of the hull



has been removed from the rice grain before brewing), it's pricey.

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Sweat and Soap © Kintetsu Yamada / Kodansha Ltd.

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Knight of the ICE



Yayoi Ogawa

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AND ICY
CHILLS
WITH
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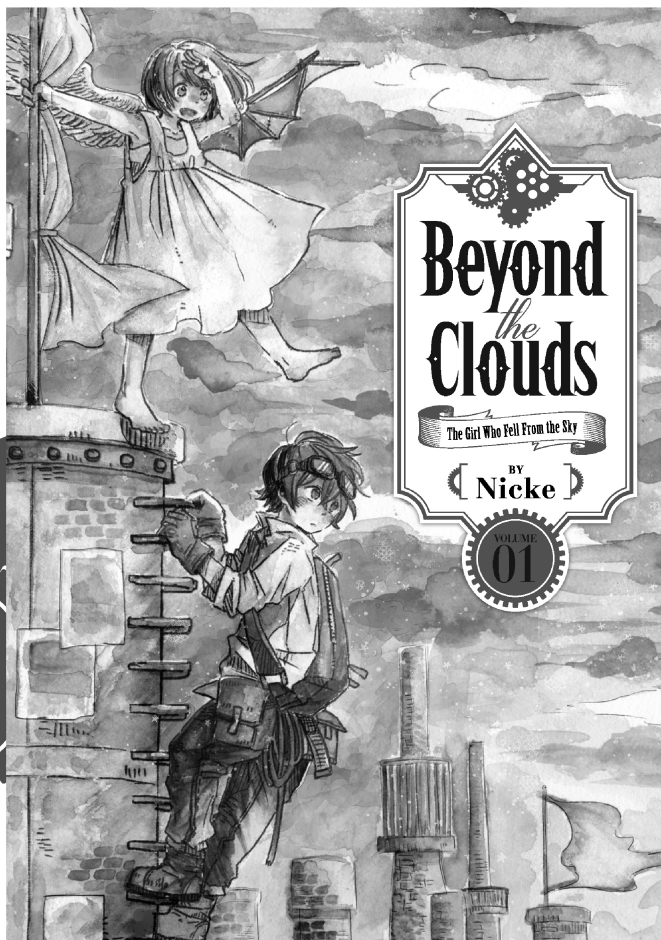
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Something's Wrong With Us

NATSUMI
ANDO

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sexy shojo
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man who framed her mother for murder!**

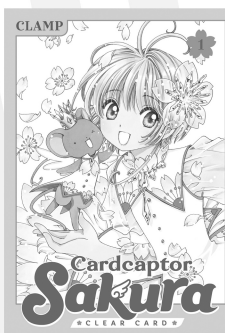
Following in her mother's footsteps, Nao became a traditional Japanese sweets maker, and with unparalleled artistry and a bright attitude, she gets an offer to work at a world-class confectionary company. But when she meets the young, handsome owner, she recognizes his cold stare...



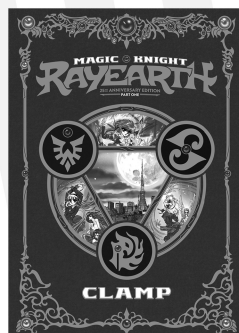
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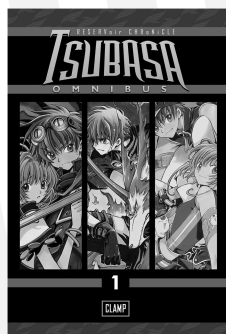
Cardcaptor Sakura:
Clear Card



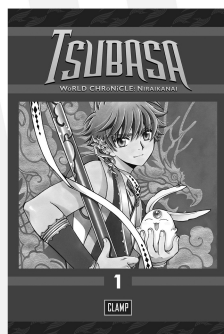
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25th Anniversary Box Set



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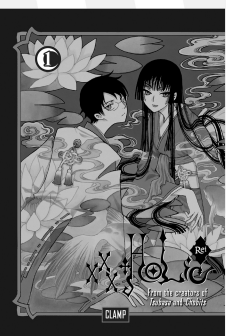
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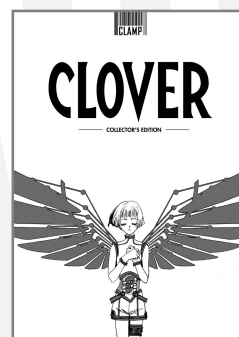
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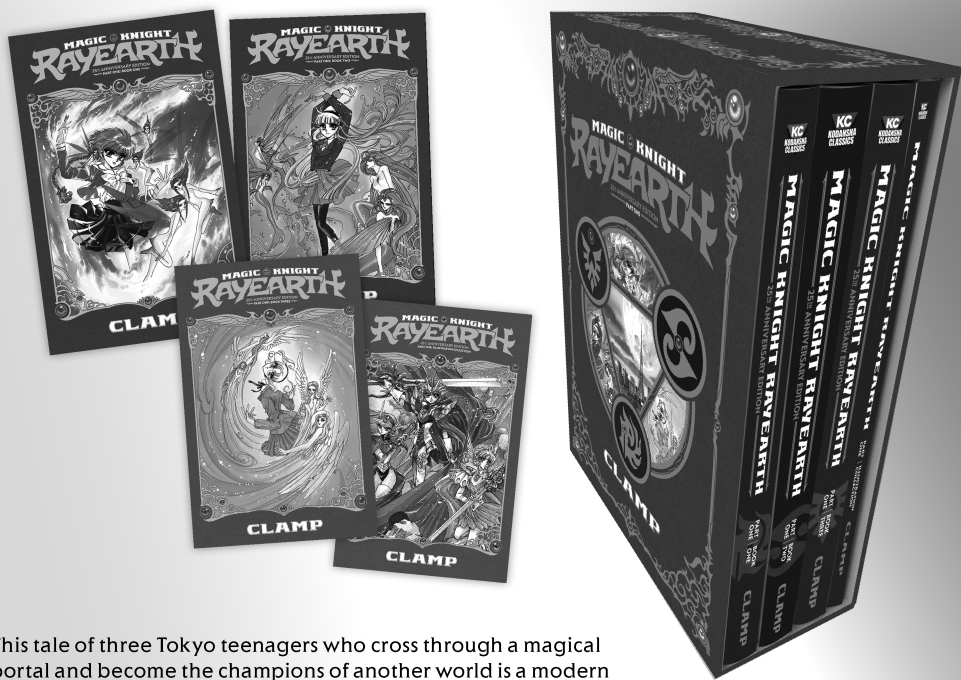
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opera."

— Publishers Weekly

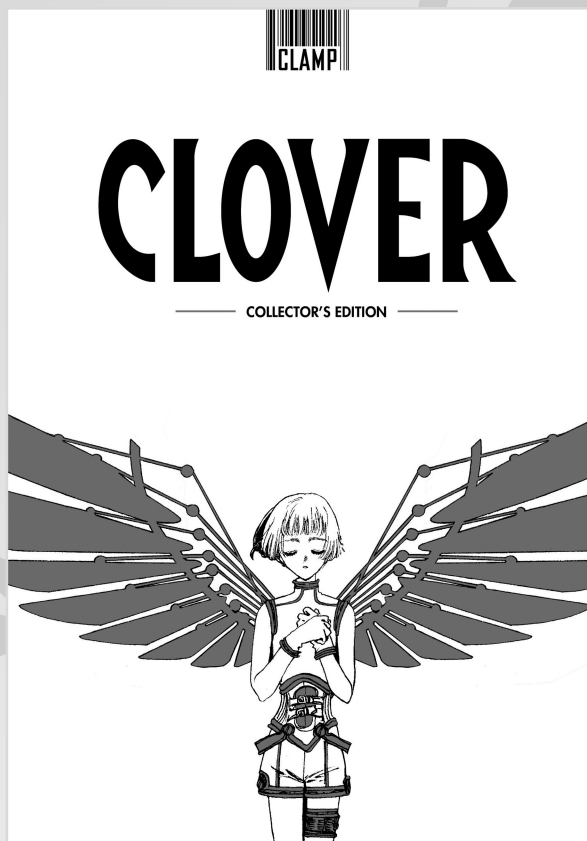
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Poor college student Hideki is down on his luck. All he wants is a good job, a girlfriend, and his very own "persocom"—the latest and greatest in humanoid computer technology. Hideki's luck changes one night when he finds Chi—a persocom thrown out in a pile of trash. But Hideki soon discovers that there's much more to his cute new persocom than meets the eye.

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A Sign of Affection 2

Kodansha Digital Edition

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